

Senior Hurling Championship - August 10, 2013

Ferns St. Aidans 1-22, Adamstown 0-14

UNBEATEN FERNS St. Aidans outscored lowly Adamstown by 1-8 to 0-2 in the last quarter in Bellefield on Saturday last as they all but ensured the ultimate top spot in Group A of the Pettitt's Senior hurling championship.

The men in red and white face second-placed Rapparees in their final outing and boast a superior scoring difference of +36 to their Enniscorthy town rivals, while this defeat spells the end of the road for the New Ross District side who will be involved in a relegation battle.

Adamstown set up in a defensive manner for this contest against the group's big hitters, with county footballer Michael Furlong playing as a seventh back throughout, and they stayed in touch for three-quarters of the game through the accuracy of Tony French and Shane O'Gorman.

However, the walls came crashing down in the 48th minute when netminder Paul Cooper couldn't clear the danger after a long Tommy Dwyer free and Patrick Farrell was on hand to lash the sliothar to the net for a 1-15 to 0-12 lead.

It was all plain sailing for the favourites thereafter as the points flowed from a variety of sources, with Cooper redeeming himself as he made two good saves from Jonathon Dwyer and Christopher O'Connor.

Dwyer and the excellent Brendan Jordan struck some superb points from long range for the victors who trailed by 0-11 to 0-10 at half-time after playing against the breeze, but they only struck one wide up to that point and generally made good use of their chances.

While they led by 0-5 to 0-2 after ten minutes, they were reeled in by a trio of Tony French points and the sides were then level four times in the second quarter. Both were content to pick off points with no goal chances of note created at either end.

Good pressure by M.J. Cooper denied Ian Byrne early in the second-half as his pull went wide, with Ferns edging three points clear before the goal after the best two points of the game from Jonathon Dwyer and Brendan Jordan from the left wing into the road end.

Depending on last round results, Ferns will now face either St. Anne's, Rathnure or Glynn-Barntown, the home club of their manager John Barron, in the quarter-finals.

Ferns St. Aidans: Mick Walsh; Colin Leacy, Niall Maguire, Edward Walsh; Declan Byrne, James Tonks, Ciarán Roberts; Brendan Jordan (0-5), Gavin Bailey; Tommy Dwyer (0-6, 4 frees), Ian Byrne (0-2), Jonathon Dwyer (0-3); Patrick Farrell (1-0), Paul Morris (capt., 0-3), Christopher O'Connor (0-3). **Subs.** - Eddie Cullen for Farrell (52), Colm Whelan for E. Walsh (52).

Adamstown: Paul Cooper; Michael Curtis, M.J. Cooper, John Whelan; Shane White, James Breen, Paudie Barden; Lorcan French, Tony French (0-10, 7 frees); Barry Power, Shane O'Gorman (0-3), John French; Eoghan Cashin (0-1), Thomas Furlong, Michael Furlong. **Subs.** - Paddy Whitty for Cashin (42), Brendan Furlong for White (53), Ian Stafford for Power (56).

Referee: Joe Kelly (Naomh Eanna).