

Lidl Ladies NFL Division 2 Round 4

Kerry 6-11 Wexford 2-11

Referee (S Curley - Galway)

Mallow GAA Complex

By

Kerry PRO – Paul Murphy

This round 4 fixture originally scheduled for March 3rd took place today in Mallow GAA Complex, Co. Cork. In ideal conditions for both teams Kerry were quicker off the mark registering the first 1-03. Sarah Houlihan opening Kerry's account from a free before Louise Ni Mhuireachtaigh and left half back Anna Galvin opened their accounts. Miriam O'Keeffe raising the green flag to the delight of the travelling Kerry supporters. With the Kerry forwards pressing up on the Wexford kickouts they were unable to get the ball up to their forwards and the early signs suggested Kerry were going to romp home to a comfortable victory. However, Kerry can be disappointed at taking the foot off the pedal and letting Wexford back into it. Two Tara Doyle frees and a Chloe Fox point from play brought Wexford right back into the game. Former Kerry player Bernie Breen now playing for Wexford played a significant part in the next Wexford score the goal by running at the Kerry defence with Maria Byrne on hand to finish to the back of the net. Kerry were now only a point up having enjoyed an early four-point lead and the sides were level midway through the first half Tara Doyle with her third free of the afternoon. Miriam O'Keeffe restored Kerry's lead, but Kerry were forced into a substitution due to an injury with Hannah O'Donoghue being replaced by Fiadhna Tagney. Both sides exchanged points before Kerry were forced into a second substitution in the half. Kerry's goal scorer Miriam being replaced by Ciara Murphy. The enforced substitutions disrupting Kerry's rhythm as Wexford drew level through Fiona Rochford. However, like the league campaign so far Kerry regrouped and found their rhythm coming up to halftime a Sarah Houlihan point, and a goal gave Kerry a four-point lead at the interval. The goal was a well worth move involving some neat interplay between Sarah & Louise Ni Mhuireachtaigh. Half time Kerry 2-07 Wexford 1-06.

Sarah Houlihan opened the scoring for Kerry at the start of the second half and while Wexford responded through Maria Byrne with a point Kerry's next two scores would ultimately prove to be a bridge too far for Wexford. Two quick fire goals from Louise & Fiadhna Tagney would give Kerry a commanding ten-point lead early in the second half. Wexford to their credit responded immediately but Laura Fitzgerald was quickest to react in the Kerry goal. Wexford responded with the next score from a free from Tara Doyle to reduce the deficit to nine but a further 1-1 from Kerry's Louise Ni Mhuireachtaigh would prove a bridge too far for Wexford midway through the second half. The goal coming after Louise pounced on a poor kickout by the Wexford Keeper Mary Rose Kelly. In the final quarter of the game Wexford's Bernie Breen tagged on 1-1 for the visitors but at this stage Kerry had the luxury of making substitutions with one eye on the next game. Sarah Houlihan with her second goal of the afternoon to register Kerry's sixth goal of the afternoon, their second game in the league in which they scored six goals. With time running out Wexford still wanted to finish the game on a high and despite some resilient defending from Kerry Fiona Rochford of Wexford added their final score of the afternoon before Amy Foley registered Kerry's final score of the afternoon with her first involvement following her introduction late on. Final Score Kerry 6-11 Wexford 2-11

Kerry Team & Scorers:

L Fitzgerald, T Breen, K Cronin, A O'Connell, S Murphy, A Desmond, A Galvin (0-1), L Scanlon, A Brosnan, N Carmody, S Houlihan (2-03 2f), S Lynch, M O'Keeffe (1-1), L Ni Mhuireachtaigh (2-04 2f), H O'Donnoghue

F Tagney (1-1) for H O'Donoghue, C Murphy for M O'Keeffe (both first half)

K Maher for S Murphy, M O'Connor for L Ni Mhuireachtaigh, A Foley (0-1) for N Carmody, C O'Brien for S Lynch, A O'Callaghan for S Houlihan

Wexford Team & Scorers

M Rose Kelly, N Mernagh, M Cullen, A Torney, C Donnelly, S Murphy, S Harding Kenny, K Kearney (c), B Breen (1-1), K White, F Rochford (0-2), N Moore, C Foxe (0-2), M Byrne (1-1), T Doyle (0-5),

N Butler for N Moore, A Neville for N Mernagh (Halftime), C Banville for K White, S McCarthy for M O'Neill, C Bridges for T Doyle

Kerry are away to Tyrone in round 7 on Sunday 7th April. The Venue is Healy Park Omagh. Throw in time 2:00pm