

Lidl Ladies NFL Division 2 Semi Final

Kerry 2-15 Armagh 1-11

Referee Jonathan Murphy (Carlow)

Geraldine Park, Athy, Co. Kildare

By

Kerry PRO – Paul Murphy

Kerry are into this years Lidl Ladies National Football League Division 2 final following a seven-point victory over Armagh in Kildare on Saturday. Kerry made three changes to the side named in the program with Robyn White, Emma O'Sullivan & Tara Breen coming in for Laura Fitzgerald, Aislinn Desmond & Eilis Lynch. Louise Ní Mhuireachtaigh opened the scoring in the second minute but Armagh where soon on level terms when Niamh Reel equalised for Armagh. Both sides where guilty of not converting some scorable chances early on as they failed to get a grip on the game. Miriam O'Keeffe restored Kerry's lead in the tenth minute before she raised the green flag shortly after. A long ball in to Miriam deceiving the Armagh full back and giving Kerry a five-point lead by the twelfth minute. This score settled the Kerry side who tagged on the next two scores through Louise Ní Mhuireachtaigh & Sarah Houlihan her first of the afternoon following good work amongst the Kerry forwards. Armagh registered there second score in the seventh minute through Shauna Grey and soon had a chance on goal but Kerry keeper Robyn White only making her second start in the league saved well. Armagh's Kelly Mallon was on hand to tap over the bar. Armagh where growing in confidence as the half wore on. With Armagh keeper Caroline O'Hare pulled off a great save from Louise Ní Mhuireachtaigh. Further Armagh points from Kelly Mallon and Niamh Reel reduced the deficit to three. Sarah Houlihan's shot on goal was put out for a 45 with the resulting free dealt with comfortably by the Armagh defence. Miriam O'Keeffe's second point of the afternoon restored Kerry's four-point advantage. Armagh would go on to outscore Kerry three points to one for the remainder of the half with Kerry's point coming from Hannah O'Donoghue to leave the score line reading Kerry 1-06 Armagh 0-08.

Kerry started the second half stronger with points from Niamh Carmody & substitute Emma Dineen to restore their three-point advantage. Armagh where not about to let Kerry get a grip on the game and responded with two points from Aoife McCoy & Niamh Reel to reduce the deficit to one point. Kerry where a different team in the second half and had a greater sense of urgency about them. Hannah O'Donoghue added her second point of the afternoon before Kerry struck for there second goal of the afternoon. Some neat interplay between Hannah O'Donoghue & Sarah Houlihan who found Louise and from a tight angle finished expertly between the keeper and the post. Kerry dominance in the game was to be reflected even further on the scoreboard with points from Louise (free) & Hannah to stretch there lead to eight points with 10 minutes remaining. Despite the warm conditions both sets of players where giving it everything and Armagh where not about to throw in the towel. Niamh Marley with a point after a 45 free was taken short to reduce the deficit to seven. With players getting tired on both sides Kerry's substitutions allowed them to sustain their attack on Armagh and a further two frees stretched Kerry's lead to nine points heading into injury time. A late Armagh goal from captain Kelly Mallow was to be of little consolation as Anna Galvin rounded off a great afternoon for Kerry to book there place in the final against Waterford on May 5th.

Kerry Team & Scorers:

R White, C O'Brien, T Breen, E O'Sullivan, S Murphy, A O'Connell, A Galvin (0-1), L Scanlon, A Brosnan, M O'Keefe (1-02), C Murphy, N Carmody (0-01), S Houlihan (0-01), L Ní Mhuireachtaigh (1-06 3f), H O'Donoghue (0-3).

Subs:

L Coughlan for E O'Sullivan, E Dineen for M O'Keefe, S Lynch for N Carmody, E McGlynn for S Houlihan, A Foley for C Murphy

Armagh Team & Scorers:

C O'Hare, S Marley, M Moriarty, C McKenna, A Donaldson, C McCambridge, R O'Reilly, T Grimes, N Coleman, N Marley (0-1), K Mallon (C) (1-03 2f), A McCoy (0-3), N Reel (0-3), N Murphy, S Grey (0-1),

E Lavery for Murphy (37).