

Lidl Ladies National Football League

Division 2 Round 5

Kerry 3-10 (19) Monaghan 2-09 (15)

Venue: Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney

Referee: Jonathan Murphy (Carlow)

Report by Kerry LGFA PRO Paul Murphy

Kerry maintained their excellent start to the league making it five wins out of five against Monaghan in Fitzgerald Stadium on Sunday. Without the services of Lorraine Scanlon due to basketball commitments both sides made one substitution each prior to throw in. Megan O'Connell coming in for Kerry. Therese Scott coming in for Monaghan. The away side were first off, the mark, Muireann Atkinson pointing for visitors. The Kerry defence failing early on to settle but once they did so did the scoreboard scoring three unanswered points two from Louise Ní Mhuircheartaigh & one from Megan O'Connell. Both sides would exchange points before Kerry would score their first goal of the afternoon. Miriam O'Keeffe's attempt at a point dropping short resulting in Louise getting fouled. Despite Edel Corrigan guessing the right way in the Monaghan goal Ní Mhuircheartaigh would coolly dispatch to give Kerry a five-point lead with seventeen minutes gone. Further points from Kerry forced Monaghan into a substitution in the twenty fifth minute. Ellen McCarron replacing Casey Treanor. It was to have an immediate impact as she scored two points sandwiched in between an Emma Dineen point for Kerry shortly after being introduced. Kerry had a further chance of a goal in the half. Megan O'Connell's long ball in superbly caught by Louise with her shot crashing off the crossbar. Andrea's Murphy's first point of the afternoon saw Kerry go in at the half Kerry 1-08 Monaghan 0-04 playing with the wind.

What seemed like a healthy lead by the kingdom at the break would be turned on its head within the first ten minutes of the second half. Playing with the aid of the wind, Monaghan would score 2-03 without reply to go two points ahead. Goals from Rosemary Courtney & Ellen McCarron a free which deceived the Kerry keeper and ended up in the back of the net gave Monaghan some much needed impetus. Just like Monaghan in the first half Kerry made two substitutions to help stem the flow. It had the desired effect. Substitute Hannah O'Donoghue setting up wing back Niamh Carmody who coolly slotted home to all the home side retake the lead. Substitute Hannah O'Donoghue getting her first point of the afternoon soon after before Kerry struck for their third goal of the afternoon. Some neat interplay involving the full forward line of Hannah, Louise & Andrea saw Andrea Murphy making no mistake to extend Kerry's lead to five with eleven minutes left to play. Just like the restart Monaghan came back scoring two unanswered points from Shauna Coyle & Ellen McCarron to leave three between the sides thus setting up a nervy finish. The late dismissals of Monaghan's Ellen McCarron & Muireann Atkinson to yellow cards did not help their cause. The home side would hold their composure for the remainder of game with the assurance point from Louise Ní Mhuircheartaigh giving Kerry's chances of reaching the division 2 final a major boost.

Kerry:

E O'Sullivan, E Lynch, A Desmond, C O'Brien, N Carmody (1-0), A O'Connell, C Murphy, M O'Connell (0-2), A Galvin, E Dineen (0-1), N Ní Chonchuir, E O'Leary, M O'Keeffe, A Murphy (1-02), L Ní Mhuircheartaigh 1-04 (1p 2f)

Subs: (All second Half)

H O'Donoghue (0-1) for M O'Keeffe, J O'Sullivan for C O'Brien, T Breen for N Carmody, F Tagney for A Murphy, A Clifford for E Dineen, M O'Connor for N Ní Chonchuir

Monaghan

E Corrigan, A McAnespie, J Duffy, G McNally, R Courtney 1-01, L McEneaney, L Garland, K Duffy, E McAnespie, C Treanor, C Courtney 0-1, S Coyle 0-1, T Scott, M Atkinson 0-1, C McAnespie 0-1

Subs

(First Half) E McCarron 1-04 (1f – 1f) for C Treanor

(Second Half) C McBride for L Garland, E Woods for S Coyle, A McCarey for K Duffy