Munster Minor B Championship

Kerry 2-07 -v- Waterford 0-07

Well done to the Kerry team and management on a hard-fought well-earned win against a determined & well organised Waterford in Mallow on Sunday. In a game that was slow to get going it wasn’t until the sixth minute that the game got its first score of the afternoon. A point from Kerry’s Aishling Hannafin before Aoibhe Waring equalised for the Deise to draw the sides level. Waterford went into the lead in the nineteenth minute with a free by Claire Walsh and extended their lead further shortly after with a point from play by full forward Brid McMagh. Kerry were finding it harder to come by scores. This was as a result of Waterford playing a very defensive setup with 13 players behind the ball. It was forcing Kerry to take shots they would otherwise not take. Kerry outscored Waterford two points to one in the last five minutes of the half. Two frees from Melanie Higgins saw Kerry go in at the break trailing by a point 0-03 -v- 0-04. With the second half underway Waterford got off to a flyer. Midfielder Claire Walsh extending the Deise lead to two. Kerry kept in touch with another free by Melanie Higgins to reduce the deficit to the bare minimum. Waterford sensing, they had a chance to take the title it afforded Kerry more opportunities up front as they didn’t commit so many bodies back. An Aishling Hannafin goal in the sixth minute as a result of a free dropping short saw Kerry take the lead by two points. It was only the second time Kerry had taken the lead in the game. Nevry momements followed as Waterford scored two points to draw level midway through the second half. While the Kerry players and management would be disappointed during the game with their performance, they can be proud of the determination & work rate they produced in the final stages of the game to come out victorious. Points from Melanie Higgins and Clodagh Murray saw Kerry extend the lead back out to two. The assurance score coming from midfielder Amy Harrington with four minutes remaining. Her goal giving Kerry a comfortable five-point lead. Waterford tried everything in the closing stages but their cause wasn’t helped with the sin binning of Eve Power. It wasn’t to be however as Katie Hannan pulled off a save and substitute Kayla Getkake scoring the final point of the afternoon to see Kerry crowned Munster Minor B Champions. Kerry now go forward to the All Ireland Minor B Semi Final on July 20th.

Kerry: K Hannan, K McGrath, S Fitzpatrick, J Jill, C NicEoin, R Rahilly, G Reidy, A Harrington (1-0), E O’Connell, F Ní Chathasaigh, S Taylor, C Murray (0-1), M Higgins (0-04F), A Hannafin 9(1-01), S Dorian

Subs: N Quinn for S Taylor, R Smith for C NicEoin, K Getkake (0-01) for A Hannafin, C Gannon for G Reidy

Waterford: K Gardner, E Bolger, G Nugent, M Buck, A Hickey, S Parker, A Warning (0-01), E Power, C Walsh (0-3 2F), A Shankey, E O’Neill, A Murphy, N Power, B McMagh (0-02), S O’Brien (0-01)

Subs: K Brazil for S O’Brien, H McGrath for A Shankley, R Hogan for A Waring