

Munster Minor Championship Round 1

Clare 4-05 -v- Kerry 0-05

The Kerry minors got their Munster Minor Championship campaign off to the wrong start with a loss away to Clare on Saturday in Inagh. With six players unavailable prior to the match it made this much more difficult leading up to the match. Their cause was further weakened with a change prior to throw in. Kiera Furey replacing the injured Sheoladh O'Donovan. Conditions were blustery and overcast favouring Kerry in the opening period but it was Clare who got off to the perfect start with captain Caoimhe Cahill registering the first score of the game. In the seventh minute Kerry keeper Aoife Looney was called into action pulling off a save to deny Clare. The home side would soon raise their first green flag of the afternoon in the sixteenth minute by Lucy Shanahan and added another goal in the twenty-third minute to open up a seven-point lead. Kerry kept pushing forward throughout the half but their final inside left them down at crucial times. They finished the half the strongest with two points from Julia Curtin and could have had a goal only for the Clare keeper Jemma Murphy to pull off a great save and go in at the break trailing by five points.

The second half followed much the same pattern as the first with Clare getting off to a strong start. 1-02 without reply saw Clare open up a ten-point lead inside the first five minutes making Kerry's task of taking something from the game all the more difficult. Julia Curtin battled hard for the visitors with another point but it was goals Kerry needed as they found Clare were in no mood to concede a goal as they got plenty of players back behind the ball preventing any chance of a Kerry comeback.

Further points by Julia Curtin and Keli Enright saw the deficit reduced to eight points but it was too little too late as Clare ran out deserving winners. While Kerry will be disappointed with the result, they have another four games left in the Munster Championship to look forward to and with a full compliment of players to choose from you can expect Kerry to be a much more formidable side in the competition.

Kerry Scorers: K Enright (0-01), J Curtin (0-04 2f)

Clare Scorers: C Cahill (C) (0-01 – 1f), E Clune (0-01), S Torpey (0-01 – 1f), G Burke (0-1), L Shanahan (2-00), L Clarke (1-0), K Fitzgerald (1-1)