



TULLOW C.S Match REPORT

TCS minor girls (u15) make history and win Leinster Shield Final.

Girls Minor shield Leinster Semi-final 21/05/2024

Tullow CS 4

Loreto Beaufort Rathfarnham 0

Tullow CS were crowned Leinster Minor Shield champions on Tuesday last and become the first school to win the new competition and the first minor girls' team in Tullow to ever win a Leinster trophy. This history making team started out last October along with 120 other schools in Leinster in the first round of the cup and where very unlucky to lose to a strong St Leo's in extra time. This qualified the girls along with the other 60 first round losers to the new shield and they have had five very impressive wins on the way to lifting the trophy.

On a very sunny and warm morning this was always going to be tough conditions to play and subs would always play a key part. Tullow started well and had lots of possession however nerves seemed to get to them and the final pass in the last third let them down as they struggled to break down the Loreto defence early on. After ten minutes Tullow finally got a shot on goal when Ciara Cahoon let fly only for the keeper to make a great save. Captain fantastic Anna Cullen was running the show and her tiger like tackling saw her win every midfield battle and get the ball into Maria Healy in the number ten who was controlling the game but finding it difficult to break down a stubborn defence.

Tullow's first real chance came on 20 minutes when they won a free on the edge of the box and Keelie Doyle's brilliant effort smashed the crossbar. With Tullow having almost 90 per cent of the play a change in formation from 4-5-1 to 4-3-3 saw Keelie Doyle and Lucy Kinsella push further forward and become more attacking and the change had immediate affect as the Tullow girls took the lead their dominance deserved when a brilliant interchange between Maria Healy and Lucy Kinsella saw them find Mia Nolan on the edge of the box and just like in the semi final her excellent strike deceived the keeper and went in the bottom corner.

Tullow continued to impress and should have doubled their lead on the stroke of halftime when a great pass from Ciara Cahoon found Maria Healy in space and she beat two players before shooting just wide.

The second half started with Loreto trying to finally get some possession and a foothold in the game when they went a little more attacking but the brilliant back four of Kate Byrne, Angie May Doran, Katelyn Dempsey and Caoimhe Dempsey kept them out. After five minutes the pattern of the first half continued and Maria Healy, sub-Una McFarland and Anna Cullen were bossing the midfield winning all the battles. They were creating lots of chances for the front three of Keelie Doyle, Lucy Kinsella and Mia Nolan and only for some brilliant goal keeping by the Loreto keeper Tullow would have been out of sight. With ten minutes gone a tactical switch saw Hannah Coady come on for Mia Nolan and Lucy Kinsella move into the central role and this paid off almost instantly as the second goal that was so badly needed finally came when the two subs Hannah Coady and Una McFarland linked up and the ball found its way into the box for Kinsella to smash home and finally get the long-awaited goal she deserved.

Loreto had to go for broke and went all out attack and Tullow took full advantage as the subs were starting to boss the game and a great pass from sub Aoibhe Collier found Keelie Doyle who slotted the ball past the keeper to keep up her goal scoring run and put the game out of sight. Tullow finished off the scoring with the brilliant Keelie Doyle scoring another screamer when she broke down the wing and smashed home into the bottom corner to seal the win.

Having seen off teams from Carlow, Wicklow, Kilkenny Wexford and now Dublin, the Tullow girls become the first team to ever lift the Minor Girls Leinster shield and get just reward for their brilliant season. It was as always an excellent team performance from a super bunch of girls.

Tullow CS Team

Abby Keppel, Caoimhe Dempsey, Kate Byrne, Angie May Doran, Katelyn Dempsey, Anna Cullen (Capt), Maria Healy, Ciara Cahoon, Keelie Doyle, Lucy Kinsella, Mia Nolan, Hannah Coady, Una McFarland, Aoibe Collier, Chloe Davies, Orla Nolan, Katie Hourihan, Ella Doyle, Ava Bolger





