**Kilkenny made to work but do enough to dispatch of Laois in Leinster Under 20 Championship**

Kilkenny 1-18 Laois 1-15

Quarter-Final between Kilkenny and Laois.

 **Robert Cribbin**

13 Jul 2021

Email: robert.cribbin@kilkennypeople.ie

Kilkenny booked their place in the semi-finals of the Leinster Under 20 Hurling Championship after a hard fought three point victory over Laois in UPMC Nowlan Park.

Laois with two games behind them against Westmeath and Antrim pushed the Cats to the pin of their collar and it wasn't until Derek Lyng's side hit five points on the trot in the final quarter that they found the breathing space to see the game out.

Through James Duggan, Ciaran Byrne and Tadhg Cuddy, Laois were very forceful in attack and it was only a well taken Conor Kelly goal that kept Kilkenny in the game in the first half

Still Laois were managing to keep their noses in front until that final quarter burst where Ian Byrne, Billy Drennan, Peter McDonald and Eoin Guilfoyle all knocked over points to push Kilkenny ahead (1-17 to 0-14).

Laois didn't throw in the towel though and they netted a late goal when sub Dan Delaney converted a penalty after Mark Hennessy was brought down in the square.

It still ended badly for the O'Moore County though with Tadhg Cuddy getting a late red card as Kilkenny held out to win on a 1-18 to 1-15 scoreline.

**Scorers:**Kilkenny- Eoin Guilfoyle (0-8, 0-5fs); Conor Kelly (1-0); Ian Byrne, Liam Moore and Cian Kenny (0-2 each); Peter McDonald, Padraic Moylan, Ciaran Brennan and Billy Drennan (0-1 each)

Scorers for Laois: Tadhg Cuddy (0-5, 0-3fs, 0-1 65); James Duggan (0-4); Dan Delaney (1-1, 0-1f); Ciaran Byrne (0-2); Thep Fitzpatrick (0-2, 0-2fs); Gearoid Lynch (0-1)

**Teams:**Kilkenny-Aidan Tallis (Lisdowney); David Fogarty (O'Loughlin Gaels), Jamie Young (O'Loughlin Gaels), Peter McDonald (Thomastown); Shane Staunton (Clara), Stephen Keoghan (Graigue-Ballycallan), Padraig Dempsey (Mullinavat); Cian Kenny (James Stephens), Padraic Moylan (Dicksboro); Liam Moore (Dicksboro), Conor Kelly (O'Loughlin Gaels), Jack Morrissey (St.Patricks); Ciaran Brennan (Bennetsbridge), George Murphy (Rower-Inistioge), Eoin Guilfoyle (James Stephens). Subs: Timmy Clifford (Dicksboro) for Murphy 29 mins, Cathal Beirne (Glenmore) for Dempsey h-t, Ian Byrne (Glenmore) for Keoghan h-t, Billy Drennan (Galmoy) for Morrissey 43 mins, Jack Buggy (Erins Own) for Moore 61 mins.

Laois: Lorcan Fitzpatrick; Ian Shanahan, Alan Connolly, Danny Brennan; Fionan Mahoney, Ciaran Burke, Niall Coss; Tomas Keyes, Thep Fitzpatrick; James Duggan, Tadhg Cuddy, Gearoid Lynch; Ciaran Byrne, Mark Hennessy, Cathal Murphy. Subs: Eddie Critchley for Murphy 48 mins, Lawson Obular for Mahoney 53 mins, Dan Delaney for Lynch 53 mins, Padraig Brennan for Coss 60 mins.

**Referee:** Gearoid McGrath (Wexford)