

The 4-in-a-row-dream is over

Fairview1
Portmarnock2
After extra time

Fairview's dream of creating history by winning four FAI junior cups on the trot were shattered at the Fairgreen yesterday when they were beaten by a Portmarnock team that just about deserved their hour of glory.

And make no mistake, Portmarnock worked hard for the entire 110 minutes. They created just a handful of chances and took two while Fairview, had they converted the opportunities created could have at least got a second bite of the cherry.

That man again - Barry Flynn - proved to be the difference between the sides. He scored an absolutely incredible goal on 20 minutes and sent over a superb corner for substitute Roche to plant the ball in the net in extra time to give Portmarnock a memorable victory.

There can be no recriminations for Fairview have served junior soccer in Limerick well. Sure, everybody at the match had an opinion on what went wrong but I think the bare truth was that Portmarnock were hungrier than the cup champions on the day.

Flynn was just magic - everything he did was excellent; he dictated matters from the middle of the park and it wasn't until the final ten minutes of the opening period that Fairview finally began to play the type of football that had brought them three FAI Cups in succession.

The Fairview fans, though desperately disappointed to have their dream shattered were unanimous in defeat and were first to congratulate their former skipper, Flynn, after the game. They recognised his contribution to the club over the past three years and were loud in their praise of his contribution yesterday.

The game was a thoroughly enjoyable one after Fairview finally settled down; they accorded their opponents far too much respect on the day and didn't perform for a full 35 minutes. The Fairview team was along expected lines though Trevor Lovelle got the nod to partner Jimmy Sheehan instead of Gerry Kelly. Fairview were totally out of the running in that opening spell but for all Portmarnock's possession they created precious little in front of goals, thanks mainly to some marvellous defending by Martin Neary on the right, John O'Callaghan on the left and Pat Purcell and Joe Hannon in the heart of their defence.

Front runners Lovelle and Sheehan had to work too deep to be really effective and didn't really create anything in that opening period.

Kevin McCarthy on the left flank got little chance to show his pace and it wasn't until he moved into the middle that Fairview began to fire on all cylinders. John Collopy, for me was Fairview's best player; he worked himself into the ground though he was seen in defence more than in



Fairview's Pat Purcell who had probably his best game for the club in some time in action against Portmarnock yesterday. Also in the shot is Portmarnock's Craig Bolton

attack such was the pressure on the midfield in that first period.

Portmarnock, as I said, dominated midfield but didn't look like scoring until the 20th minute when they won a free kick about 35/40 yards from goal. Barry Flynn is a renowned free taker but even he surpassed himself on this occasion when he unleashed an Exocet missile that gave keeper Lynch absolutely no chance. Stunned into action Fairview tried to get back in the game. Their fans kept up a continuous din and eventually they finally began to play some good football. They won a free kick deep on the left touch line. Jason Purcell swung over a tantalising free that the keeper missed completely and Kevin McCarthy drilled home to send the home fans wild with delight. That was just five minutes before half time and a minute later it looked all over when John Collopy did everything perfectly right and Jason Purcell should have done better than head straight at the keeper who was not enjoying the best of times at this stage. He looked decidedly tentative at times but Fairview failed to test him.

Still, after such a dismal opening 35 minutes the Fairview fans were pretty heartened going in all square at the break.

The Limerick side were dazzling on the resumption and had the Portmarnock side on the rack. Time after time they prised gaps in the visitors defence without ever seriously testing keeper Mike Dowd. That said, though, Fairview were playing some delightful football at this stage; they surged through the middle with John Collopy on the right in excellent form. The difference in the team was a stronger mid-field which had Kevin McCarthy doing the work in the middle. After 14 minutes, though, Dermot Phelan was substituted for Paul Harmon who hugged the touch line and looked impressive whenever in possession. The full back was eventually substituted such was Harmon's effect on the defender. He got over one or two marvellous crosses that really should have produced better results. John Collopy was a revelation, as I said, and one marvellous run down the left and getting in an immaculate cross only to see Kevin McCarthy's effort bounce off the ground and over the top. There were groans all round when McCarthy was again over the top, this time from a cracking cross from Harmon. It was all Fairview at this stage. Jimmy Sheehan got over a great cross and John Collopy met it superbly only to see his shot go over the top. Still, Fairview came at the visitors and two Kevin McCarthy corners looked destined for the net but on each occasion they somehow scrambled them to safety. One looked to be going all the way to the top corner but the keeper somehow managed to get a finger to the ball to avert the danger.

Portmarnock weathered the storm, though, and



Heat friends and former team mates, Jimmy Sheehan, left, clashes with Barry Flynn during yesterday's FAI Junior Cup game at the Fairgreen in which Portmarnock ended Fairview's 39-game FAI odyssey

... minutes remaining most snatched the win when John Feeney missed a glorious chance for a cross from Craig Bolton. Bolton had a slow enough opening but he finished very strongly and was close to Flynn for the rest of the match tag. The opening period of the game saw Portmarnock again take the lead by the scruff of the net. They battled for the ball and with the referee ready to blow for the end they forced a needed enough corner and an again took charge of the situation to send over a

good cross but with the home defence caught flat-footed super sub Declan Roche drilled home what proved to be the winner. It was back to the wall stuff for Portmarnock in the second half. Gerry Kelly, who came on for Martin Neary was put through by Jimmy Sheehan and he needed only a touch but it was just too far in front of him and the chance was lost. Jason Purcell had a glorious chance but he lost control at the vital second and blazed the ball over the top. Fairview had created a string of glorious chances

but each one went abegging and ultimately that's the reason they're out of the cup tonight. They have given the Limerick soccer public tremendous entertainment over the years, though; they played as well as ever yesterday after a pretty poor start but lady luck just didn't smile on them on the day. They have done Limerick soccer proud over the years and Dermot Finnan, always magnanimous in defeat as he is in victory, congratulated Portmarnock on their win and finished by saying "we'll be back."

Fairview: Owen Lynch, Martin Neary, John O'Callaghan, Joe Hannan, Pat Purcell, Dermot Phelan, Kevin McCarthy, Jason Purcell, Jimmy Sheehan, Trevor Lovelle, John Collopy. Res., Sean Lipper for O'Callaghan, Gerry Kelly for Neary and Paul Harmon for Dermot Phelan.
Portmarnock: Mike Dowd, Colm Brannigan, Declan Dolan, Dave Mooney, Niall Madden, Keith Bruen, Craig Bolton, John Dolan, John Feeney. Res., Andrew McDonnell, Declan Roche, Tom Kavanagh, Mark Boylan.

BIG MATCH STATS

Compiled by Turlough McNamara

FIRST HALF . . . FAIRVIEW				
Shots on target	Offside	Free kicks	booked	Corners
	1	15	0	3
FIRST HALF . . . PORTMARNOCK				
Shots on target	Offside	Free kicks	booked	Corners
	1	5	3	2
			J. Feeney	
			J. Cahill	
			D. Dolan	
SECOND HALF . . . FAIRVIEW				
Shots on target	Offside	Free kicks	booked	Corners
	1	10	2	4
			P. Harmon	
			P. Purcell	
SECOND HALF . . . PORTMARNOCK				
Shots on target	Offside	Free kicks	booked	Corners
	1	11	1	4
			B. Flynn	
EXTRA TIME - FAIRVIEW				
Shots on target	Offside	Free kicks	booked	Corners
	1	4	0	2
EXTRA TIME - PORTMARNOCK				
Shots on target	Offside	Free kicks	booked	Corners
	0	4	0	1

Classified Football Results

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Eamon Quinlan Cup final
Hill Celtic 2-2 Glenview
(After extra time)

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

TSB Bank Cup final
St. Joseph's 1-1 Hospital
(after extra time)

FAI Junior Cup quarter-final
Fairview 1-2 Portmarnock

MFA Junior Cup 5th rd.
Clonmel Tn. 0-1 Carew Park

Lawson Cup
Ballynanty 0-1 Pike Rvs.
Janesboro 3-0 Caherdavin

Harp Lager J. Healy Cup quarter-final
Hill Celtic 2-1 Star Rvs

Dom Lipper Division 2A Cup
UL FC 3-2 Newport Town

Eamon Ray Division 2B Cup
Abbey Rovers 0-2 Charleville

Henry Hurley Division 3B Cup
Caherconlish 2-1 Castleconnell

Premier League
Holycross 2-2 Mungret
Kilmallock 2-2 Park Rgs
Wembley 1-1 Granville
Charleville Off Fairview

Harp Lager Division 1A League
PP FC 3-3 Caledonians
Summerville 2-3 Geraldines
Southend 1-5 Fairview
Shannon Off Vereker Cl
Aisling Annacotty 4-0 Dromore

Harp Lager Division 1B League
Mungret Reg. 1-1 Corbally
Fairview Off Ballynanty
Manister Off Shelbourne
Moyross 6-0 Hyde Rgs

Harp Lager Division 2A League
Kilteely - Croom Utd.
Wembley 0-2 Ballylanders
Athlunkard 0-2 Herbertstown
St. Patrick's 2-0 Weston Villa

Harp Lager Division 2B League
Knockainey - Lisnagry
Caherdavin 5-0 Wanderers
Kilmallock 1-3 Holycross

Harp Lager Division 3A League
Cappamore 0-0 Kilfinane
Park Rgs. 2-1 Killonan
PPFC 2-4 Murroe

Harp Lager Division 3B League
Star Rvs. - Meanus
Kilteely 0-5 Granville
Summerville 2-1 St. Paul's

Harp Lager Division 4A League
Aisling Annacotty - Knockainey
Dromore 1-0 Wembley

Harp Lager Division 4B League
Kilfinane Off Parkville
Ballylanders Off Kennedy Park
Corbally Utd. 1-2 Herbertstown
Murroe 4-0 Newport

FAI U-17 Cup
Manortown Off Limerick FC

MFA Youth Cup
Limerick FC 2-1 Peake Villa

Ger Ryan Youth Cup
Killonan 2-2 Summerville
(Summerville won on penalties a.e.t.)

Ballylanders 1-4 Charleville
Shannon Tn. Off distillery

Youth Division 1
Regional Utd. 2-3 Fairview
Ballynanty Off Corbally Utd.

Youth Division 2
Janesboro 2-1 Holycross

Youth Division 3
Caherdavin 0-3 Pallas Utd
Holycross Off Cappamore