

FULL TIME

GAA - ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL

MATCH STATS

LIMERICK	1-12
KILKENNY	0-10

SCORERS

LIMERICK: Niamh Mulcahy 0-7 (4 frees), Deborah Murphy 1-0, Caoimhe Costello and Rebecca Costello 0-2 each, Mary O'Callaghan 0-1.

KILKENNY: Orla Hanrick 0-5 (3 frees), Mags Fennelly and Lydia Fitzpatrick 0-2 each, Catherine Foley 0-1 (free).

LIMERICK

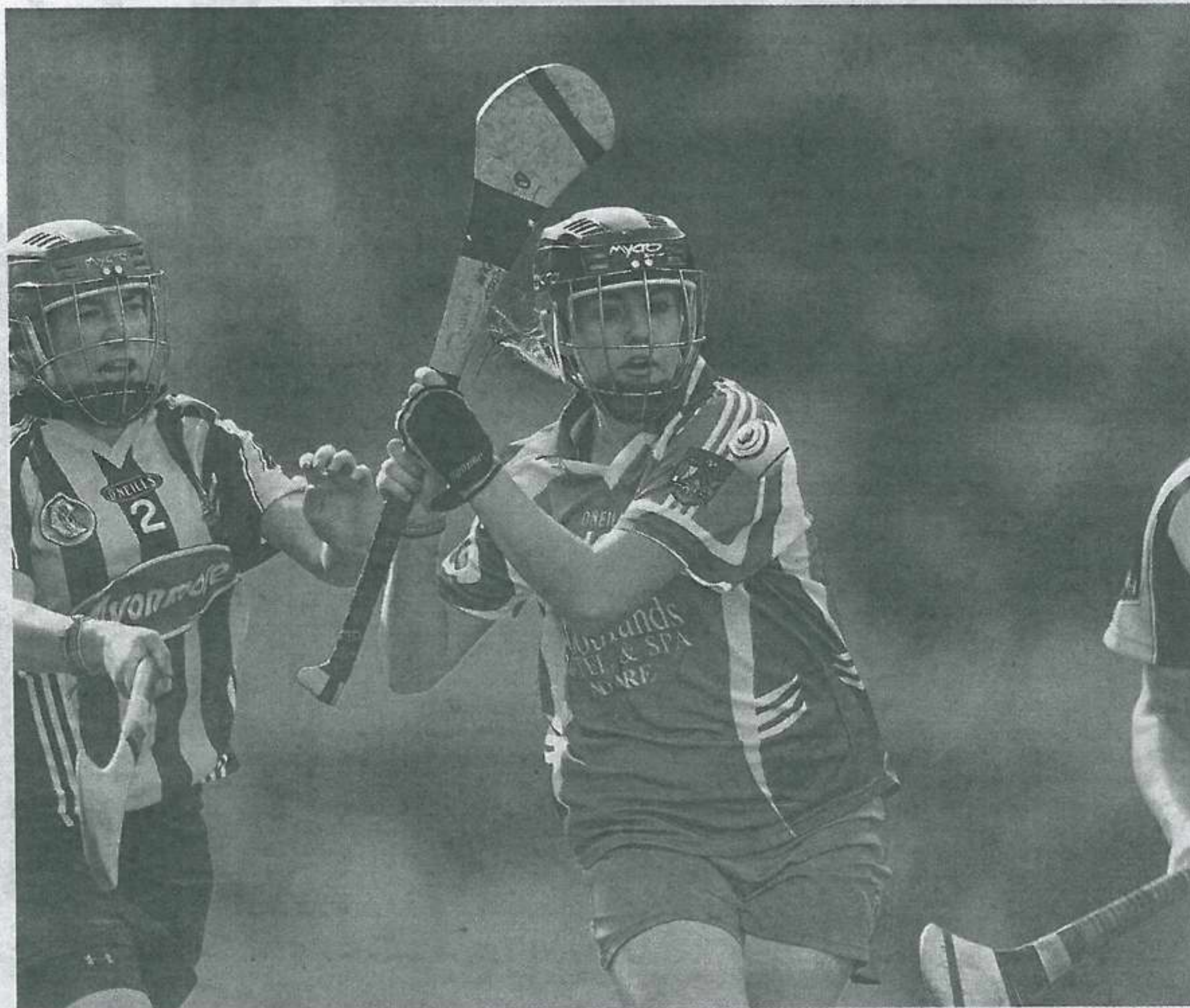
1. Sile Moynihan
2. Fiona Hickey
3. Michelle Casey
4. Judith Mulcahy
19. Katie Campbell
6. Sarah Carey
7. Claire Mulcahy
10. Caoimhe Costello
11. Niamh Mulcahy
18. Lorraine McCarthy
9. Mary O'Callaghan
12. Rebecca Delee
13. Deborah Murphy
14. Aoife Sheehan
15. Mairead Fitzgerald

Subs: Dymphna O'Brien for Fitzgerald (h-t), Sinead McNamara for McCarthy (h-t), Karen O'Leary for O'Callaghan (43mins), Niamh Ryan for Murphy

KILKENNY

1. Ann Marie Lennon
2. Edel Frisby
3. Catherine Foley
4. Therese Muldowney
5. Claire Aylward
6. Aine Fahey
7. Stacey Quirke
8. Megan Farrell
19. Mary O'Connell
10. Sarah Crowley
11. Anna Farrell
12. Laura Norris
13. Mags Fennelly
14. Orla Hanrick
15. Lydia Fitzpatrick

Subs: Aine Gannon for Norris (h-t), Aine Kinsella for Quirke (49mins), Sarah Ann Quinlan for Hanrick (51mins).



Tightly marked: Rebecca Delee, Limerick, in action against Edel Frisby, Kilkenny, in yesterday's All Ireland intermediate camogie final



Joe Quaid's team make amends for last season's disappointment with a power packed performance to sweep aside Kilkenny in Croke Park

Limerick crowned camogie champions

JEROME O'CONNELL

AT CROKE PARK

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LIMERICK were crowned All-Ireland intermediate camogie champions yesterday with a five point win over Kilkenny in the championship final in Croke Park.

Captain Fiona Hickey climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand to lift the winning trophy and to make amends for their final loss twelve months ago when they failed narrowly to Galway.

The win for the Joe Quaid managed side ensures that Limerick win promotion to the senior championship next season.

Limerick have never won the senior camogie championship and this was their

third success in the second tier competition with previous wins in 1996 and 2007.

The superb camogie title brings an end to Croke Park championship final heart-break for Limerick.

Since the 1973 All Ireland senior championship win for Eamonn Grimes and Co, Limerick had lost five senior hurling finals, two minor hurling finals, a ladies football final and last year's camogie final.

Indeed over the past four

decades only the 2010 All-Ireland championship winning ladies footballers had emerged victorious from an adult championship final in Croke Park.

In this thrilling final win, Limerick led 1-5 to 0-6 at half time after playing into the wind.

It was Kilkenny captain Mags Fennelly that had the opening score of the game but two Niamh Mulcahy frees had Limerick settled and ahead by

the fifth minute.

Mulcahy had a third free to increase the Limerick lead before Mary O'Callaghan had the first Shannonside point from play in the 14th minute for a 0-4 to 0-2 advantage.

With usual attackers Niamh Mulcahy and Caoimhe Costello playing and dominating midfield and the half back trio of Katie Campbell, Sarah Carey and Claire Mulcahy on top Limerick were beginning

FULL TIME



Champions: the Limerick camogie team celebrate their All Ireland final win in Croke Park yesterday

BIG GAME IN BRIEF..

Star Player - Niamh Mulcahy

The Ahane player was one of three Mulcahy sisters in the starting team. Normally in attack, Niamh started midfield and steadied any early nerves with four first half frees. When switched into attack in the final quarter, she sealed the win with three points from play.

Key moment

Limerick hadn't scored goals in key games this season and hadn't scored one in last year's All-Ireland defeat to Galway. The game's only goal came in the 19th minute when Deborah Murphy crashed to the net after fine work by Caoimhe Costello and Mairead Fitzgerald.

What Now?

This was Limerick's third ever success at this level. The win promotes Limerick to the senior championship next season. Backed by the All-Ireland winning minor team, Limerick look to have a bright future.

Reaction

NIAMH MULCAHY

"To get the win is absolutely brilliant. The minute the final whistle went there was a moment of sheer relief. After losing last year it took a few seconds to realise what we had achieved."

Spotted: Leinster and Ireland rugby player Sean Cronin (below) was among the crowd in Croke Park yesterday as he cheers on his fiancée, Limerick defender Claire Mulcahy



Quaid finally gets dream All-Ireland final victory

REACTION

JEROME O'CONNELL
GAA Correspondent
In Croke Park

JOE Quaid lost two All-Ireland senior hurling finals in Croke Park and lost the camogie decider last season at GAA Headquarters but yesterday he declared 'dreams do come true'.

"People say that dreams don't come true but they did today," said a beaming Limerick camogie manager pitchside as his team celebrated in Croke Park.

"This is brilliant - I had said it during the week that I had never seen anybody climb the steps of the Hogan Stand from Limerick but to see it there from that bunch of girls is unbelievable," said a hoarse Quaid.

"The emotion that poured out at the final whistle was after two years of hard work under me and a lot of hard work before that," said the former Limerick hurling

goalkeeper.

"This is unbelievable - three Limerick teams and three Kilkenny teams in Croke Park this year and we finally get one over on them - you don't beat Kilkenny in Croke Park that easy," he said in reference to the senior and minor hurling battles of recent weeks.

"It was a complete squad performance, it wasn't even a team performance - absolutely brilliant."

The manager said that the experience of last season stood to his side.

"We didn't really panic because we were comfortable - we have them a couple of handy scores from frees and they never really threatened our goal - I don't think Sile (Moynihan) had a save to make. We never really put them away and you could probably put them down to the fear of the finishing line," he explained.

"If had said two years ago that we would have had three All Irelands in the one year,

to dominate. Mulcahy's fourth free maintained the lead before the crucial score of the half came in the 19th minute.

Costello and Mairead Fitzgerald created the opening up the left wing and when the ball was crossed into the goalmouth Deborah Murphy kept her composure to crash the ball to the Hill 16 net for a 1-5 to 0-3 lead.

Murphy had an outstanding first half when given a free role across the half forward line to deny Kilkenny momentum when backed by the wind.

But that was it for Limerick in the half and they were to go the next 11-minutes without a score.

Bit by bit Kilkenny's found their feet and had the last three scores of the first half, all frees.

That left it 1-5 to 0-6 to Limerick at half time.

It was a half that saw Limerick hit four wides and Kilkenny just one.

On the resumption Kilkenny looked to reduce the deficit and had three points from play in the opening 10-minutes.

The Limerick reply came from minor star Caoimhe Costello. Twice she was at the end of moves to split the posts into the Davin End Stand.

Those early scores left it 1-7 to 0-9 with 20-minutes to play.

It was now Limerick showed all the experience of

last year. The substitutions introduced made impacts while the switch of Niamh Mulcahy to the half forward line made her an instantly a more dangerous attacking threat.

The next three scores came the way of Limerick and the attack was now brimming with confidence as Mulcahy, and Rebecca Delee increased the lead to four points entering the final quarter. And, that lead was despite hitting 10-wides over the course of the game.

But it was a final quarter that Limerick dominated and Kilkenny were to score just once in the final 20-minutes.

An Orla Hanrick free in the 47th minute of the game merely interrupted the Limerick flow.

Player of the Match Niamh Mulcahy had her third point of the half to stretch the lead and then another of the minor stars Delee registered her second to seal the win.

Delee was one of their minors in the starting team. In total there were 11 minors in the Limerick panel of 30. All have now added the intermediate medal to the first ever All Ireland minor A championship won earlier in the summer. Indeed some yesterday's victorious panel had also won both minor and junior championships this season.