Mulroy College Soccer team - All Ireland Final Bound

**Mulroy College, Milford 4-2 Our Lady’s Secondary School, Belmullet**

Orla McGonigle (11), Aoife McDevitt (16), Leanne Boyce (48), Michelle Doherty (67)            Tamara O’Connor (40+2), Diana Doherty (40+3)

Mulroy College Girls' soccer team travelled to The Showgrounds in Sligo to play their All Ireland Semi final. Both teams played in the All Ireland Final in 2012 when Mulroy were victorous.

Kick off was set for 1.00pm and the nerves were showing as Mulroy got off to a shaky start when a confident Belmullet side got stuck in straight away, with a strong shot going over the bar to go out for a corner. The corner was taken but cleared and could have went either way in a busy Mulroy box. The Mulroy shaky start ended there. In the 10th minute, from a free in from Belmullet the ball was cleared to a quick paced Orla McGonigle, who raced forward to score the opening unstoppable goal. Belmullet came back strong with a pounding shot cleared of the line by on form keeper Carla McBride in the 13th minute. Mulroy held their heads when, joint captain Aoife McDevitt’s strike caused an error from the Belmullet keeper and the ball crossed the line for a second goal. It was with the second goal the game settled for a period with both sides playing good football, but it was Mulroy who were the threatening side with two wide shots by Michelle McDevitt and the lively Caoimhe Walsh. Belmullet were never too far behind and a confident Belmullets Tamara Mc Fadden shot from the halfway line only to be saved again by the Mulroy keeper. Danger was never far away from Mulroy when Belmullet broke threw a solid Mulroy College defence and scored their first goal in injury time. Belmullet kept the momentum going and were pushing forward hard from the break and caught the keeper off her line only for the shot to be cleared off the line by Roisin McElwaine. The danger didn’t stop there and Belmullet's Diana Doherty advanced strongly to score an unstoppable shot in the top right corner of the net just as the whistle went for half time. Mulroy were happy to hear the whistle.

The second half was all to play for and Belmullet looked the brighter side after kick off with another immediate attack on goal. This was short lived and whatever magic words Mrs. McAteer and coach Paul McGovern had for the team at halftime took effect. After a lengthy throw in from Mariosa Friel the ball fell to Leanne Boyce whose shot on target deflected off a Belmullet defender to make it 3-2 Mulroy. Mulroy were on fire and looked the brighter and stronger team from then on.  With many chances from the midfielder Amanda Callaghan and the lively left back Zoe Green. Lucy Marie O'Flynn remained stong in mid field througout the game. It was in the 72nd minute a great ball into the Belmullet box brought 3 players into collision which resulted in Roisin McElwaine being taken off for an ankle injury. Her replacement Grainne Friel was very strong in defence. Once play resumed there was a great spell of passing from Mulroy which resulted with  a strong shot from Michelle Doherty who made no mistake in making the back of the net. 4-2 Mulroy. This saw the end of the goals but a great soccer performance from Mulroy College who held the game comfortably. With a minute remaining, Mulroy made substitutions, Amanda Callaghan was replaced by Rosheen Mc Ginely and Louise Lynch replaced Aoife Mc Devitt . Belmullet gave a last attempt at goal in the dying minutes but another mighty save from Carla held the match at 4-2. The referee blew up the game at 83 minutes to a huge roar from the travelling Mulroy College supporters who did a great job in spurring on the team throughout. A good game of football from both teams but it was the excellent Mulroy College  team who progress into their forth All Ireland final. Speaking after the game, manager Aisling McAteer, complemented her players,saying " each and every one of the team are a credit to themselves, their families and the school. They all played their hearts out and thoroughly deserved the win. I have 100% confidence that they have the ability to bring the Cup back to Mulroy".

**MULROY COLLEGE, MILFORD:** Carla McBride, Orla McGonigle, Leanne Boyce, Roisin McElwaine (Grainne Friel, 45), Zoe Green, Mariosa Friel, Aoife McDevitt (Louise Lynch, 80+1), Lucy Marie O’Flynn, Amanda Callaghan (Rosheen McGinley, 80), Michelle Doherty, Caoimhe Walshe.

**Subs:**Orla Sweeney, Rebecca Ryan, Claragh Giles, Clare Friel

**Manager:** Aisling McAteer, Coach:Paul McGovern.

**OUR LADY’S SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET:**Natalie McHale, Cristin Healy, Aisling Barrett, Amy Carey,

Katie Duffy (Eabha Carrabine, 48), Ciara Ginty, Tamara O’Connor, Grainne Reilly, Diana Doherty, Maria Reilly, Roisin Healy

**Subs:** Noreen O’Connor, Lir O’Donoghue, Moya O’Sullivan, Aoife Kilker

**Teachers:** Harry Reilly, Robin Turner

**REFEREE:**John Barry (Sligo)