

Gaelic Games News

Clare hurler humiliated by 'double-standard' treatment

Man-of-the match in 2013 Under-21 final not allowed into dressing room

O'Halloran says the squad are afraid to stand up to management team

EAMON DONOGHUE

One of the Clare hurlers embroiled in a disciplinary breach which forced him to depart the panel has said that he was left "humiliated" by the treatment he received from manager Davy Fitzgerald.

On Friday it was revealed that following a disciplinary issue in-

volving a small number of the Clare panel both Davy O'Halloran and Nicky O'Connell had left the squad. It's now been revealed that the duo refused to fulfil their three weeks of punishment which they say isolated them from and humiliated them in front of their team-mates. They did so when they realised that a senior member of the

squad was exempt from similar sanctions despite what they considered a more serious breach. This was not confirmed by the Clare management team.

Davy O'Halloran says that he was not allowed access to the team changing rooms, forced to tog out separately, he was prevented from wearing the panel's gear to training, he was unable to be involved in matches or travel to them, no dialogue was allowed with other team mates at sessions and he was made to train alone in a corner of the pitch doing intensive physical work.

A senior All-Ireland winner in 2013, O'Halloran claims that he could not accept the draconian measures, for being caught on a

night out two days before a league game, when another player had admitted consuming alcohol to the management team and received no such reprisal.

"I had a strained hamstring so I wasn't able to train anyway so that's why I was out, I definitely wouldn't have been out if I could have featured against Galway. And I wasn't drinking," says O'Halloran who says the discipline breach took place prior to Clare's league opener with Galway last month during a five week injury layoff.

"Myself and Nicky O'Connell were out two nights before the Galway game and the two of us were actually injured at the time and we weren't drinking. We met one of our trainers out and

he said he would say it back to the captain about us being out and we just said fair enough.

"Davy wasn't told until after the Cork game because they didn't want to tell him until after the two league games so they waited until we had our week's break.

Drinking

"He then called a meeting on the Tuesday night in the dressing room, he called it out in front of everyone [the punishments].

"While all of this was happening another senior player told Nicky that he'd had a meeting with one of the selectors who told him he knew that he was drinking but he wasn't going to say anything about it.



■ Davy O'Halloran: "A lot of the lads aren't happy, see lads are too scared to stand up to him [Davy Fitzgerald]"

"We just thought it was double standards, one rule for us and a different rule for someone else just because he was a pivotal

part of the team and we weren't at the time basically."

O'Halloran, who is now likely to join the trio of ex hurlers in the county football panel, claims that upon the pair's decision to leave they wrote a letter to the captain to read out to the squad stating their rationale. This they claim was ripped up in front of the squad by Fitzgerald.

"A lot of the lads aren't happy, see lads are too scared to stand up to him."

"I just didn't see myself being there knowing that I was getting treated differently to another player – and if we were running around a pitch for three weeks we would have missed the whole league campaign and we wouldn't have had much of a hope of making it into a championship team."

The Clare management team declined to comment.

Soccer SSE Airtricity League Premier Division

Murphy's brace sufficient for Bohemians to maintain their impressive start

Defender strikes twice as newly-promoted Galway pay the price for defensive naivety

Bohemians 2
Murphy 6, 38

Galway Utd 0

EMMET MALONE
at Dalymount Park

If simply staying up is the first target for Keith Long and his young Bohemians side then they'll have been encouraged by a start that has yielded six points and early evidence that there are at least two significantly weaker teams in this division.

Galway might well rise to the challenge over the course of the campaign to come but here they lay down rather tamely here and the ease with which Bohemians centre half Anto Murphy was allowed to get his two goals from set pieces suggested a level of naivety that is likely to be punished in the top flight on a regular basis if it is not quickly addressed.

Drogheda head to the west next week and Tommy Dunne will want to see signs of serious improvement in that game given that a trip to Cork follows quickly afterwards.

Infront

Bohemians were in front within six minutes as Murphy was left almost unchallenged to head home a nicely curling free from Lorcan Fitzgerald and Dean Kelly came close to doubling the lead not long afterwards when the hosts broke quickly out of defence but Kealan Dillon's cross asked a tiny bit too much of the striker.

United needed to steady themselves then start posing a bit of a threat themselves but Dunne's young side struggled to do either with the visitors displaying an inability through the first half at least to get the ball into the danger at one end or, on a few occasions, clear it effectively at the other.

Alex Byrne, Paul Sinnott and Stephen Walsh were all guilty of presenting half chances to opponents with badly misplaced passes from positions where there was little room for error and Long must have been concerned that nobody seemed capable of punishing all the sloppiness.

Less adept

Certainly the locals should have been two up just before the break when Derek Prendergast was allowed time and space to pick his spot with a header as Fitzgerald's corner floated towards him but the centre back proved less adept than his defensive partner at finishing and made life very easy for goalkeeper Conor Gleeson.

A two-goal lead wouldn't have flattered Bohemians in the slightest at that stage. They were a little more eager in everything they did. United's moves forward repeatedly broke down because players were guilty of waiting for the ball to come to them and they were edged out physically by a side that probably wouldn't frighten too many sides in that particular department.

Galway started the second half a little more brightly but still seemed incapable of troubling goalkeeper Dean Delany. Their opponents worked hard



■ St Patrick's Athletic's James Chambers battles with David Scully and Ryan McEvoy of Bray Wanderers during last night's game at Richmond Park. PHOTOGRAPH: DONALL FARMER/INPHO

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bohemians	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Drogheda Utd	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Dundalk	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Cork City	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
St Patrick's Ath.	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Shamrock Rovers	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Derry City	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Sligo Rovers	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Longford Town	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Galway Utd	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Bray Wanderers	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Limerick FC	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

when not in possession and the visitors struggled with the close

attention.

The hosts continued to create chances. Kelly might have done better from close range but fired wide while Robbie Creevy clattered the woodwork with a header a little over midway through the half.

It was a little while after that when United got their first corner, which came to very little, and Gleeson did well enough to stop a shot from Mark Griffin shortly after the former Dundalk striker had replaced Kelly

up front for Bohemians.

His corner a few minutes later led to Murphy's second with the defender shaking off a fairly lacklustre attempt to contain him to meet the ball with a firm strike from the middle of the area. Late on, United finally created a couple of chances with Delany doing well to prevent Gary Shanahan lobbing him when the striker was sent racing clear of the Bohemians back four and Walsh missing the target with a close-range header of

his own.

The hosts, though, will be well satisfied with a second win that, for the moment at least, leaves them sitting pretty at the top end of the table.

BOHEMIANS: Delany, Pender, Prendergast, Murphy, Fitzgerald, Lopes, Kavanagh, Buckley, Evans (Moore, 90 mins), Dillon (Crewey, 60 mins), Kelly (Griffin, 75 mins).
GALWAY UTD: Gleeson, Horgan, O'Ji (Cunningham, 75 mins), Walsh, Ludders, Shanahan, Sinnott, Byrne (O'Connell, 90 mins), Mollay, Curran (Keegan, 69 mins), Connolly. Referee: R Mathews (Westmeath).

Drogheda edge a five-goal thriller

Drogheda Utd 3
Sligo Rovers 2

Drogheda United took the spoils in a five-goal thriller at United Park as they continue their 100 per cent start to the season against a strong Sligo Rovers side.

The visitors opened the scoring on seven minutes when Diny Corcoran headed a John Russell cross past Michael Schlingermann at the far post, the former Drogheda man scoring his first goal for Sligo.

Nine minutes later, and

against the run of play, Drogheda levelled the game as Jason Marks chipped up a ball for Daryl Kavanagh to head home.

Sligo retook the lead just before the break when John Russell's corner found the unmarked Gavin Peers who scored the game's third header, to mark his 300th appearance for Sligo in fitting style.

On the break

After the break Joe Gorman cleared off the line as Sligo pressed but Drogheda caught the visitors on the break and Kavanagh turned provider as he lifted the ball over the top for Cathal Brady to fire a low shot

past the visitors' goalkeeper Ryan Coulter.

Rather fittingly, Drogheda's third was from a header also as Sean Thornton pumped a free into the box and Neil Yadolahi dipped his head and guided the ball away from Coulter into the net for his first goal for the Boynesiders and ultimately what proved to be the game's winner.

DROGHEDA UTD: Schlingermann, Daly, Yadolahi, Byrne, Gorman, Marks, Brennan (Duffy, 77 mins), Thornton, Maher, Brady (Scott, 85 mins), Kavanagh.
SLIGO ROVERS: Coulter, Keane, Peers, Folan, Ledwith, Devaney, Cowley, Russell (Puri 85 mins), Beattie, Cretaro (Nielsen, 77 mins), Corcoran. Referee: R Harvey (Dublin).

Massey makes the difference

Derry City 0
Dundalk 1

Stephen Kenny's Dundalk secured a deserved narrow win at the Brandywell last night, Dane Massey, producing the strike to secure the champions' second win in two games.

And the Lilywhites made it clear from the outset that they had travelled to win as David McMillan's snap-shot was directed at the body of Derry keeper, Ger Doherty, who blocked the effort from close range.

The home side had another lucky escape in the 28th minute.

A poor kick-out by Doherty was intercepted by John Mountney and when he found McMillan, the Derry keeper did well to block with his legs and clear the danger.

Derry created their best scoring chance in the 56th minute when Curran sent Mark Timlin scampering clear on the right.

However, as the winger was about to shoot, Massey produced a superb tackle to save the day for Dundalk.

With the estimated attendance of over 3,000 on their

feet, it was the visitors who finally broke the deadlock in the 64th minute.

Constantly probing the Derry defence, Ronan Finn produced a magnificent pass to sent Massey in the clear and he did well when guiding the ball home from just outside the penalty area for what proved to be the only goal of the tight contest.

DERRY CITY: Doherty, S Kelly (G Kelly, 86 mins), McBride, S McElaney, Barry, Timlin (Diery, 78 mins), Lowry, McNamee, Houston, P McElaney, Curran.
DUNDALK: Rodgers, Gannon, Boyle, Gattard, Massey, Shields, Mountney (Grimes, 80 mins), Towell, Finn, Horgan (Meenan, 61 mins), McMillan (Byrne, 77 mins). Referee: P Tuite (Dublin).

Dennehys make Limerick suffer

Cork City 5
Limerick FC 0

Brothers Billy and Darren Dennehy each scored twice as Cork City enjoyed an easy win over Limerick at Turner's Cross last night.

Already leading 2-0 after a goal from each of the Dennehys inside the opening 20 minutes, the home side's task was made easier when Limerick captain Shane Duggan was sent off just after the half-hour for dangerous play after he mistimed a challenge on Danny Morrissey.

Having been outplayed up until then, Limerick found themselves chasing shadows thereafter. They had fallen behind after Darren Dennehy netted from a Colin Healy pass and then his brother doubled the lead from the penalty spot after the excellent Karl Sheppard had been fouled by goalkeeper Conor O'Donnell.

While the one sour note of the first half for City was the loss of Garry Buckley to injury, his replacement, new signing Gavin Holohan, made it 3-0 just before half-time with a curling 25-yard shot.

Billy Dennehy's second, and City's fourth, came six minutes

into the second half when he slotted home after dispossessing Limerick sub Val Feeney, and it was surprising that only one more goal would be added.

Sheppard was unlucky not to get the goal his performance deserved, going close more than once, but Darren Dennehy had the final say, getting his second in the closing stages from Billy's free kick.

CORK CITY: McNulty, Dunleavy, Bennett, D Dennehy, Gannon, Healy (Kavanagh, 76 mins), Miller, Morrissey (Keaney, 64 mins), Buckley (Holohan, 30 mins), B Dennehy, Sheppard.
LIMERICK FC: O'Donnell, Harding, O'Connor, Price, Williams, Duggan, O'Connor, Turner, Faherty (Feeney, 36 mins), Rainford, Clarke (Hawthorn, 57 mins). Referee: T Connolly (Dublin).

St Pat's hot start too much for Bray

St Patrick's Ath 3
Bray Wanderers 0

Two goals inside the opening five minutes helped St Patrick's Athletic to a facile 3-0 victory over Bray Wanderers at Richmond Park.

The hosts were rewarded for an enterprising opening in the fourth minute as Killian Brennan converted from the penalty spot after Alan McNally was adjudged to have tripped Greg Bolger.

Birmingham's surging run allowing Christ Forrester to fire a measured finish home from 18 yards.

In a frantic opening, Wanderers should have trimmed their arrears in the seventh minute but Chris Lyons lacked conviction as he rolled the ball wide from eight yards following an unforced error by Brendan Clarke.

Ryan McEvoy also went close for Bray three minutes later but the visitors remained largely on the back foot for the remainder of the half with James Chambers going close on two occasions while Conan Byrne and Forrester also

threatened for a rampant home side.

The initial promptings of the first period but the contest was effectively settled on the hour mark as Brennan's delightful pass allowed Chambers to feed Christy Fagan for a straightforward finish from six yards.

ST PATRICK'S ATHLETIC: Clarke, McCormack, Hoare, Clarke, Birmingham, Byrne (Suedje, 96 mins), Chambers, Bolger, Brennan, Forrester (Greene, 83 mins), Fagan (Kiduff, 74 mins).
BRAY WANDERERS: McGuinness, Barker, McNally, O'Reilly, Memory, Scully (Douglas, 68 mins), Gallagher, McEvoy, Kelly, McGlynn (Orwuluka, 88 mins), Lyons (McDonagh, 76 mins). Referee: D Torney (Dublin).

Allianz Hurling League Weekend previews

Today

Division 1A

Clare v Dublin

(Cusack Park, 3pm)

Well, it's not as if there is any other sporting fixture of interest on at this time. Not for the first time, the GAA has blithely scheduled a league fixture in direct opposition with a Six Nations Championship game featuring Ireland. It won't keep the Clare hardcore away. Rumours that Colm Galvin is set to miss the championship summer remain unconfirmed but it has been a testing few weeks for Davy Fitzgerald. The ferocious response against Tipperary last week didn't quite materialise. Conor Ryan's contribution of 0-5 was eye-catching but the Banner will want further productivity up front as they attempt to overcome a Dublin team picked apart by Cork a week ago. Relegation is one thing; a winless league is another. Clare to register their first points here.

Division 1B

Limerick v Offaly

(Gaelic Grounds, 7pm)

Declan Hannon reverts from centre forward to centre back as TJ Ryan's team seek to maintain their promotion push. Wayne McNamara has been troubled with a leg injury and makes way along with David Reidy, Cian Lynch and Seanie Tobin, who made strong contributions off the bench to Limerick's thrilling win against Wexford, come in. Offaly at least enjoyed a brilliant start last week against Waterford and led by Shane Dooley will hope to build on that here. But Limerick should confirm their promotion ambitions with a win.

Sunday

Division 1A

Tipperary v Kilkenny

(Thurles, 2pm)

On TV: TG4 (deferred)

Brian Cody hasn't quite written off a fourth league title in succession but this is a pivotal match. Kilkenny's defence was typically full-hearted and organised last week against Galway and there was rarely a hint of a Tribesmen goal. Still, they lost the match and now face a Tipp team travelling well and undoubtedly keen to register a win over the black and amber. Richie Hogan was heroic against Galway; if he has recovered from a hamstring strain, Kilkenny have their conductor up front. But even with Hogan, they may struggle to match Tipperary's attacking depth and the frequency with which they are creating goal chances.

Galway v Cork

(Pearse Stadium, 2.30pm)

Jimmy Barry Murphy's team

caught the eye in Dublin with their fluency and scoring rate but it was a bizarrely open game and they can expect conditions to be tougher in Salthill. The pitch there is still scarred with deep ridges from a drainage job which made life difficult for the hurlers last week. Joe Canning has resumed normal service for Galway. It remains to be seen whether Anthony Cunningham will leave Jason Flynn on free-taking duties. His striking last week was exceptional. Galway are big, physical and fast and up for the hard work. Cork have made five changes to last week's side, with Luke O'Farrell among three forwards making way. Stephen McDonnell will start at full back in place of Christopher Joyce, whose confirmed cruciate ligament injury took the gloss off that handsome win over Dublin. Galway to make use of home advantage.

Division 1B

Waterford v Antrim

(Walsh Park, 12.45pm)

After scoring a vital goal against Offaly last week, Shane Bennett has stepped down from the Waterford panel in order to concentrate on his Leaving Cert. The composure Waterford displayed in recovering from a 0-7 to 0-0 opening blitz was impressive. Chris O'Connell, Thomas McCann and Shane McNaughton come into the Antrim team for this long trip south. Antrim haven't quite clicked in this league and are unlikely to get a break here.

Laois v Wexford

(O'Moore Park, 2pm)

Wexford came out the wrong side of a seven goal shoot-out against Limerick last week, coughing up 1-1 and the win in injury time. Niall Breen comes into goal and Andrew Shore and Conor McDonald also start for Wexford. Cheddar Plunkett's Laois side badly needed their four-point win against Antrim a week ago but will struggle to contain Liam Dunne's side, who will be quietly furious with themselves after last week's crucial promotion slip-up.

Division 2A

Carlow v Kerry

(Cullen Park, 1.20pm)

Pat English's side should confirm their status as form leaders with a convincing win over a Kerry team who went down heavily to Westmeath a week ago.

Westmeath v Wicklow

(Cusack Park, 12.45pm)

Wicklow targeted a win against London and didn't get it; they are likely to endure more hardship when they visit a Westmeath team which showed improving form against Kerry.

KEITH DUGGAN



■ Clare manager Davy Fitzgerald: his team still are seeking their first league points. PHOTOGRAPH: DONALL FARMER/INPHO

Allianz Hurling League Tables

Division 1A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PDPts
Cork	3	2	0	1	3-75	2-59	+19
Dublin	3	2	0	1	3-65	3-59	+6
Galway	3	2	0	1	2-55	3-53	-1
Tipperary	3	2	0	1	4-51	2-60	-3
Kilkenny	3	1	0	2	4-51	2-62	-5
Clare	3	0	0	3	1-54	5-58	-16

Division 1B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PDPts
Waterford	3	2	1	0	5-61	3-42	+25
Limerick	3	2	1	0	6-55	4-52	+9
Wexford	3	2	0	1	6-57	6-48	+9
Offaly	3	1	0	2	5-50	4-56	-12
Laois	3	1	0	2	1-53	5-59	-18
Antrim	3	0	0	3	4-48	2-65	-13