

SPORTS REVIEW – APRIL



Patrick McBrearty in action during the U-21 final.

Donegal were relegated from Division 1 of the Allianz NFL after they drew with Dublin in MacCumhaill Park.

A goal from Colm McFadden put Donegal in the driving seat, but after the referee Padraig Hughes was replaced by Michael Duffy, Donegal lost their way and Paul Mannion kicked a late score to send Donegal down.

“A lot of the stuff that went on there didn’t add up, let’s put it like that,” said an angry Jim McGuinness after the Dublin game.

“There was a number of things going on near the end of the game and have relegated us as a result,” he added.

The match was marred by an unsavoury incident after Paddy McBrearty was bitten on the shoulder during the match, and had to receive a tetanus injection in Letterkenny General Hospital after the match.

Dublin defender, Kevin O’Brien was given a three-match ban for the alleged ‘bite’, but that was overturned by the CCC, much to the displeasure of Donegal officials.

There was disappointment for the Donegal under 21 team after they were defeated by Cavan in the under 21 final by Cavan. Maxi Curran’s team produced a magnificent display to get past Derry in the semi-final, but the formidable Breffni men proved too strong in the decider.

The Donegal hurlers picked up their first defeat of the season when they fell to Fingal in the Division 3A League final in Breffni Park by 1-9 to 1-5. Donegal hit eight wides during the game, and manager Ray Durack lamented his team’s poor shooting.

“We had our chances to put scores up but we didn’t take them. It was wrong options and wrong decision making that cost us,” said Durack.

Donegal lost the Ulster minor league final by 1-10 to 0-10 to Monaghan. Stephen Friel’s team were

magnificent as they beat Down in the semi-final, but the Farney men got the better of them in the final.

However, there was better joy for the Donegal minor hurlers, who picked up the Minor Hurling Shield after a three point win over Monaghan.

The All County Football League got underway in earnest with unbeaten St Michael’s leading the way in Division 1. Glenswilly also started their season strongly, and they ended the month in first position in Division 2.

Finn Harps finished April in third position in the Airtricity First Division, despite an indifferent month. Peter Hutton’s team picked up two defeats to Athlone Town and Waterford United. They drew with Wexford Youths, Cobh Ramblers and Mervue United, while their only win of the month came against basement side Salthill Devon.

Lifford Celtic kept their cool to force a final day showdown in the Donegal League, after their 2-0 win over Kilmacrennan kept them one point behind league leaders Glenea United. The border side won all their games in April to keep pressure on the Glascheroo men.

Meanwhile, Donegal Town won the Watson Hire Division One title, while Gweedore United held off Kerrykeel ‘71 to clinch the CT Ball Division 2 title.

Letterkenny Rovers collected the Colm Breslin Youth Cup, by beating the Rosses Academy 3-1 in Ballyare. And Rovers also tasted glory in the Donegal schoolboys champions league under 16 final beating Keadue Rovers

Kyle Callan-McFadden from Ramelton helped the Norwich City Youth team to the FA Youth Cup final after they defeated Nottingham Forest on penalties at Carrow Road. Another Ramelton man, Barry McNamee was prominent in April, as he scored twice for Derry City.



Austeja Auciute, Finn Valley Boxing Club.

In athletics, Mark English turned in an impressive performance to help the Irish team finish third at the 2013 Penn Relays in Philadelphia.

There was disappointment for Chloe and Sam Magee after they were beaten in the mixed doubles Badminton final in the Dutch Open. The Magees lost the decider to German pair Michael Fuchs and Brigid Michels. There was further disap-

pointment for Chloe when she was also defeated in the single ladies semi-final by Beatriz Corales from Spain.

Finn Valley hammer thrower, Felan McGuigan qualified for the IAAF World Youth Championships, after he threw a World Youth ‘B’ standard distance of 66 metres in Loughborough, England.

Teenage boxing sensation Austeja

Auciente won her sixth Irish title when she defeated Cheyanne O’Neill from Athlone in the 63kgs final at the National Girls final at the National Boxing stadium.

“The final was the toughest that I’ve had in the six years. It was the most important, too. I knew that before I went up and I was well tuned for it. I knew what I had to do - and did that,” said Auciente.