

SPORTS REVIEW – SEPTEMBER



Cockhill Celtic celebrate winning the Ulster Senior League title after defeating Drumkeen United 3-2. Photo: Donna McBride

Donegal GAA was rocked after three members of the Donegal Senior Management set-up sensationally left Jim McGuinness' backroom team.

Initially it was reported that Assistant manager Rory Gallagher, Video analyst Maxi Curran and kitman Francie Friel had all stepped aside due to personal reasons, but this was corrected by the county board, who said it was Jim McGuinness' decision to make changes to the management team.

Damian Diver, John Duffy, and Paul McGonigle were the men chosen as selectors in McGuinness' management team for 2014.

The GAA clubs in Donegal voted in favour of Jim McGuinness' proposal to start next year's Senior and Intermediate Championships will commence after Donegal's All-Ireland series is concluded.

Termon ladies won their third Donegal Senior Ladies title, with a comprehensive win over St Eunan's in the final in MacCumhaill Park. Geraldine McLaughlin was the star once again for the Burn Road girls, as she scored 3-3.

Milford ladies took the Intermediate crown after they got the better of Aodh Ruadh by 3-9 to 4-4 in a cracking final in Ballybofey.

Buncrana minors showed incredible character to beat St Eunan's in the Minor Division 1 final in MacCumhaill Park.

St Eunan's had hammered Sean Clerkin's men two weeks previously, but the Inishowen men avenged that defeat by winning 0-12 to 0-10.

Naomh Muire and St Naul's reached the Intermediate final. Danny O'Donnell's Naomh Muire got the better of Aodh Ruadh, while St Naul's had too much for Naomh Columba.

Glenswilly defeated Kilcar to make the quarter-finals of the Donegal Senior Championship. The game had to be restarted after Glenswilly fielded 16 players.

Malin caused a huge shock by knocking out St Eunan's in Buncrana, while Ardara upset favourites Gaoth Dobhair in O'Donnell Park.



Donegal manager Jim McGuinness arriving at MacCumhaill park. Photo: Donna McBride

Struggling Killybegs completed the semi-final quartet, after they beat MacCumhaills.

Goals from Sean Furey and Aaron Byrne proved to be the crucial scores as Naomh Ultan won the Junior B Championship after defeating Letterkenny Gaels in Donegal Town. Meanwhile, in the Senior Reserve Championship final, Gaoth Dobhair and Naomh Conaill played out an enthralling draw.

Burt won their third Donegal Senior hurling championship in a row by beating Setanta in O'Donnell Park.

Kevin Campbell scored 2-10 for the Killygordon men, but Burt held on for a two point win.

Cockhill Celtic won the Donegal News Ulster Senior League cup final after they beat Drumkeen United 1-0 in a close fought game in Bonagee. A 73rd minute strike from Garbhan Friel sealed the win in front of a big crowd.

Donal O'Brien's men were also celebrating a week later when they defeated Drumkeen again to win the Ulster Senior League title in a ding-dong battle at the Charlie O'Donnell Sports Grounds.

Drumkeen did take an early lead, but three goals from Cockhill including a 25 yard screamer from Malachy McDermott, put Cockhill in pole position. A late free-kick from Seimi 'Nanny' Friel threatened to spoil the party, but Cockhill clung on to collect the title.

"It was disappointing to be runners-ups for the last two years, this year we have done the double and I'm delighted, delighted for the players and everyone connected with the club," said O'Brien.

It was a busy month for O'Brien, who along with Trevor Scanlon mas-

terminded the Ulster Senior League team to glory in the Interprovincials competition in Sligo.

The USL team drew with Leinster, before hammering Connacht 9-0 in their second fixture. A goal from Garbhan Friel was enough to give the USL victory over Munster and land the team the Interprovincial crown.

The transfer window for the Donegal Junior League closed at the end of September, with an incredible 111 transfers being completed since August.

Seamus Coleman started the season brilliantly for Everton, as he helped the team get off to an unbeaten start in the Premier League.

Finn Harps had their FAI cup dreams dashed by Drogheda United in Hunky Dory's park.

Harps were bitterly close to making the semi-final as they lead Drogheda by a goal with only five minutes to go.

However, Drogheda equalised late, and won the replay on home turf 2-0. Harp's league form continued to deteriorate in September as they lost all three of their league games to fall to second bottom in the league.

Lagan Harps' Amber Barrett and Greencastle's Gemma McGuinness helped the Republic of Ireland under 19s progress to the next phase of the UEFA Championships after they drew with Denmark in Tolka Park.

Jason Quigley's successful year continued when he was one of 12 athletes across Britain and Ireland to be selected for a Sky Sports scholarship.

Letterkenny Golf Club were unable to defend the GUI Ulster Cup after they were defeated narrowly by Carrindhu Golf club in the final over two legs.

Rosapenna Golf Club were also unlucky as they lost out 3-2 to County Sligo Golf club in the AIG Senior Cup final at the Royal Tara Golf Club in Dublin.

Philip Deignan suffered a blow when he broke his collarbone in a crash in the Tour of Britain and missed the World Elite Road Race Championships as a result.