

SPORTS REVIEW - MAY



Martin McHugh, Pat McEneaney, Anthony Molloy, John Lynch and Tom Comack at the Donegal GAA supporters forum in An Grianan Theatre.

Donegal recorded a fantastic Ulster Championship win over Tyrone to advance to the semi-finals of the Ulster Senior Championship.

Goals from Colm McFadden and Ross Wherity were key as Donegal won 2-9 to 0-9 in front of a bumper crowd in MacCumhaill Park.

"Tyrone really had us in their sights and that's the most satisfying thing for us," said a delighted McGuinness after the final whistle.

"We had the exact same approach as last year. There was a lot of talk of putting all the eggs into one basket, but it was the same last year, and the year before. That's what we do - it's championship football."

However, there was disappointment for the Donegal minors who lost to Tyrone in the curtain raiser. Stephen Friel's men kicked an astonishing 19 wides as they fell by 1-9 to 1-3 in Ballybofey.

The Donegal hurling team reached the Nicky Rackard final after they cruised past Monaghan in O'Donnell Park. Substitute Lee Henderson was to the fore for Donegal, scoring 2-3.

"Our goal at the start of the year was to progress in the league and give the Nicky Rackard a good shot. We're back in Croke Park for the final now and we'll be going all out for the win," said Ray Durack.

Supersub Amber Barrett came off the bench to score 4-1 for the Donegal Minor ladies to guide Donegal to the Ulster minor ladies title in Ballyconnell.

In club football, St Michael's won their first ever Donegal Comorfas Peile na Gaeltachta Senior title after beating Naomh Columba in the final in Glen.

Fanad Gaels won the Junior championship defeating St Naul's in the decider, while Termon got the upper hand on Glenfin to win the ladies Gaeltacht championship final.

Conor McEniff was St Eunan's scorer-in-chief as they overcame Dungloe in the County Minor League final at Monellan Park. Naomh Columba won the Division 2 league title by defeating Termon in Glen.

Lifford Celtic lifted the Brian McCormick Sports Premier League after a dramatic final day in the Donegal League. Glenea United looked to have sealed the title when they struck late against Rathmullan Celtic.

However, Dara Patton swooped deep into injury time to win the league for Lifford, who had beaten Dunkineely Celtic 2-0.

"As Gary Neville once said: 'It was written in the stars', and that was

the case today. It's unbelievable but we deserved this from day one," said Lifford Celtic's joint captain Mark Neeson after his team were crowned champions.

Cranford won promotion to the Premier Division of the Donegal League, thanks to a hat-trick from their veteran striker Philip Buchanan in a play-off against Dunkineely Celtic in Killygordon.

Rathmullan Celtic won the Brian McCormick Sports Cup when they defeated Glenea United 2-1 in the final at Killygordon. Eoin Sheridan was the hero for the Seasiders when he snatched a 90th minute winner.

Surprise package Drumkeen United ended the month in top position of the USL after winning three games from three. Cockhill Celtic were in hot pursuit of the men from St Patrick's Park and they made an unbeaten start to the season.

Kyle Callan-McFadden was celebrating in May after he helped Norwich City to the FA Youth Cup. The Canaries carried a one-goal advantage over Chelsea into the second leg at Stamford Bridge.

Norwich won the second leg 3-2, to win on aggregate with McFadden excelling in both legs. The 18 year old's endeavours were rewarded with a one-year professional contract from the club.

Carl McHugh also enjoyed a successful outing at Wembley, as his Bradford City team won the League 2 play-off with Northampton. Meanwhile, Seamus Coleman helped the Republic of Ireland to a 1-1 draw with England in Wembley.

Finn Harps enjoyed a good May, as they picked up wins over Longford town, Mervue United and Wexford Youths. They remained in third position in the league, but drifted seven points behind league leaders Longford Town.

Hutton's men lost to local rivals Derry city in the EA Sports League Cup in devastating fashion after the Brandywell outfit beat Harps 6-5 on penalties.

Philip Deignan finished the Tour of California in ninth position. The United Healthcare cyclist had to put up with soaring heat on the tour, but a third place finish on the second stage helped him to a strong overall position.

Michael Gallagher scooped his ninth Irish title in May.

The Finn Valley ACB ace took home the 81kgs crown from the National under 18 finals at the National Stadium. Asteja Auciente made it an impressive month for Finn Valley ABC when she collected her seventh national title.



And thy're off.... Competitors at the start of the 2013 Northwest 10km annual charity fundraising race.. Photo: Donna McBride



Young supporters have a birds eye view of the Letterkenny Rovers versus Drumkeen United at Leckview, as coaches Anthony Gorman and Trevor Scanlon look on. Photo: Donna McBride