

MATCH BREAKDOWN

MAN OF THE MATCH
CHRIS ÓG JONES
(CORK)

WHILE Clare had some great displays from the likes of Jonah Culligan and Dermot Coughlan it was the scores by Chris Óg Jones that ultimately proved to be the big difference between the sides. The Ivelary man hit 1-8, 1-3 of which came from play and it helped put real daylight between the sides in the second half before Clare's late rally brought it back to a four-point game at the end.

WON & LOST

CLARE made a super start to this game and really had their hosts rocked when moving into a 0-6 to 0-2 lead in the first quarter; but ultimately the winning and the losing of the game was down to the big push made by Cork either side of half-time. This was when Clare failed to really sustain their challenge and it gave them much too much to do coming down the home straight when the Rebels had a cushion that was always going to see them home.

WHERE TO NOW?

FOR Cork it's the Munster final this weekend against Kerry, but for Clare it's about nurturing the talent that's within the side at a higher level. Jonah Culligan was given his senior championship start as a sub on Sunday against Offaly on the strength of his display in this game. Others can also make the same jump.

TEAMS

Cork

Ian Giltinan (Carrigaline); Kevin O'Donovan (Nemo Rangers), Brian Murphy (Nemo Rangers), Nathan Walsh (Douglas); Liam O'Donovan (Clonakilty) (0-1), Aidan Browne (Newmarket), Tadhg Corkery (Cill na Martra); Maurice Shanley (Clonakilty), Colm O'Callaghan (Éire Óg) (0-1); Seán Walsh (Mitchelstown), Cathal Maguire (Castlehaven), Chris Óg Jones (Ivelary) (1-8, 3f); Matthew Bradley (Aghabullogue) (0-3, 1f), Mark Keane (Mitchelstown), Damien Gore (Kilmacabea). **Subs** Sean O'Sullivan (Mitchelstown) for Corkery; Mark Buckley (Dohenys) for Shanley; Colm Barrett (St Finbarr's) (0-2) for Bradley (half-time), Blake Murphy (Na Piarasigh) for Maguire (42), Alan McCarthy (St Finbarr's) for Walsh (49), Cillian Myers Murray (St Finbarr's) for Gore (52).

Clare

Stephen Ryan (Kilrush); Jack Sheedy (St Breckan's), Jamie O'Sullivan (Wolfe Tones), Peter Collins (St Joseph's Doora-Barefield); Mark Meaney (Coolmeen), Ikem Ugweuru (Éire Óg), Tom Hannan (St Joseph's Doora-Barefield) (0-1); Darragh Bohannon (Shannon Gaels) (0-1), Jack Hannan (St Joseph's Doora-Barefield); Jonah Culligan (Ballyvaughan) (0-5), Dermot Coughlan (Kilmurry-Ibrickane) (0-4, 1f), Sean Crowley (Kilmihil) (0-1); Ross Phelan (Kilrush), Joe McGann (St Breckan's), Cian Shannon (Ennistymon). **Subs** Ross O'Doherty (Ennistymon) for Shannon (half-time), Aaron Griffin (Lissycasey) for Crowley (48), Colin McNelis (Clondegad) for Collins (49), Niall Ellis (Shannon Gaels) for Hannan (51), Colm O'Brien (St Breckan's) for Phelan (52), Jamesie O'Connor (Miltown-Malbay) for Coughlan (57)

Referee Sean Joy (Kerry)

FOOTBALL > MUNSTER UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL



Clare's Dermot Coughlan holds off Cork's Aidan Browne during the Munster Under 20 Championship semi-final at Páirc Uí Rinn in Cork.
Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Brave banner fall short

 Cork 1-16 Clare 0-15 

At Páirc Uí Rinn, Cork

IT was the Rebels' night on their home patch of Páirc Uí Rinn, but for Clare it was a case of what might have been after they put up stern resistance in this provincial semi-final.

Cork had everything going for them in this penultimate round clash — they'd had a run out in the quarter-final the week before and had thumped Tipperary in the process by 1-20 to 0-8, something that made them overwhelming favourites to book a place against Kerry in the decider.

But while the Kingdom were strolling to a facile 3-22 to 0-1 win over a hapless Waterford side in Austin Stack Park it was a much different storyline in Cork, with Seamus Clancy's Clare side putting in a great display only to fall short at a crucial period either side of half-time.

Clare got off to a flier in this game, with Ballyvaughan's Jonah



by
Joe Ó Muirheartaigh

Culligan and last year's minor captain Dermot Coughlan of Kilmurry Ibrickane leading their charge. Culligan was one of a number of senior panellists on duty, others being the Hannan brothers from St Joseph's Doora-Barefield and Shannon Gaels' Darragh Bohannon.

With Culligan and Coughlan on song — they hit 0-9 between them over the hour — Clare raced into a

0-6 to 0-2 lead after the first quarter. At this stage a shock looked to be on the cards, but slowly but surely the Rebels found their feet with a strong second quarter being the key to their ultimate victory.

The Rebels had threatened a goal in the early exchanges, but Stephen Ryan earned his spurs with a good save from Mark Keane, while Cathal Maguire flashed his goal chance into the side netting.

However, it was Chris Óg Jones that changed things and led their revival. First he pointed on 18 minutes and then quickly followed with a goal when after taking a pass from Tadhg Corkery he jinked his way towards goal before slotting home with confidence. He added another point on 22 minutes, with Matthew Bradley following with his first of the evening as the Rebels hit 1-3 without reply.

Coughlan and Culligan did stop the rot with points before the break before Jones was on target to give the home side a slender half-time advantage.

It was a lead they never looked like surrendering, with three more Jones points and two from Colm Barrett ensuring that they moved 1-15 to 0-10 clear inside the last ten minutes.

That was when Clare mounted a late charge. Wing-back Tom Hannan and substitute Colm O'Brien both went close to goals, Hannan's shot hitting the crossbar and going over while goalkeeper Ian Giltinan palmed O'Brien's effort over. They needed a goal to make a real game of it, but had to be content with one more point from Jack Sheedy that just left four between them at the end.

It was a brave bid, but still it wasn't enough.