

2021 Garvey's
SuperValu County
Senior Football
Championship
SEMI-FINAL



ST. BRENDAN'S BOARD V AUSTIN STACKS



GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG

IONAD: Austin Stack Park, Tralee
DÁTA: Saturday 20th November
RÉITEOIR: Eddie Walsh (Rathmore)
TOSNÚ: 5.30pm Extra Time & Result on the Day

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LUACH: €2

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PREVIEW

2021 GARVEY'S SUPERVALU COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL



Diarmuid O'Connor (St. Brendan's Board) in action against Jonathan Lyne and Chris Davies (Killarney Legion) during the recent County SFC quarter-final at Austin Stack Park.

Austin Stacks fancied but foolish to underestimate St. Brendan's challenge

By MURT MURPHY

St. Brendan's Board v Austin Stacks, Austin Stack Park, Saturday 20th November, 5.30pm

LOOKING at the first SFC semi-final on Saturday evening between Austin Stacks and St. Brendan's, logic would suggest that the club side should have too much in their arsenal for a St. Brendan's side made up of five clubs with only one of those clubs Na Gaeil showing any recent form.

But logic never won a race and this local Tralee and its environs face off may not be as clear cut as the 4/9 odds on Austin Stacks suggest and the layers two point handicap indicates that this is a lot more open than many appear to think.

Senior football championship pedigree would suggest that Stacks hold all the aces as they have twelve SFC titles while St. Brendan's have none. But on closer inspection Stacks last Bishop Moynihan win was in 2014 and the previous win was twenty years earlier in

1994 so Austin Stacks are not perennial SFC winners or even finalists. In fact the last time the Stacks reached a SFC semi-final was 2014 so their recent championship record is nothing like a Dr. Crokes or a South Kerry.

Despite not ever winning a SFC title, St Brendan's recent championship record surpasses that of their rivals as they are playing in their third semi-final in a row and they were very close in 2019 and only East Kerry have beaten them over the last three championships. Another feather in their cap is that they also beat East Kerry in an opening round game in 2019 but East Kerry emerged through the back door to claim the title.

So St. Brendan's are in the semis on merit and I am certain that Wayne Quillinan and Austin Stacks will not underestimate the challenge that their neighbours will pose on Saturday evening. But returning to logic, Austin Stacks have been very impressive in the Club Championship and posted three in a row Senior Club wins when they beat Kenmare Shamrocks last month

but St. Brendan's could counter that by pointing out that they knocked the same Kenmare side out of the championship two weeks later.

However Stacks moved to the top of the betting for this year's championship when they ended high flying East Kerry's two year reign as champions with a two point win that could and should have been ten points but for a second half fightback by the champions. It should not have happened and while Wayne Quillinan will have been thrilled by that first half when they threatened to overrun East Kerry, the manager will be less pleased about the second half performance that allowed East Kerry back into the contest. However they were in a different mood against South Kerry and saw that game out to the end and they looked very impressive.

St. Brendan's are backboned by Na Gaeil players but they are not a one club team, in fact the players from Ardfert, Churchill, St. Pat's and John Mitchels have been just as impressive. They were impressive against Kenmare Shamrocks in the opening round and in the first half of the quarter-final win over Killarney Legion but then manager Donal Rooney was not happy with a second half fade out in that win that if repeated against Stacks will be severely punished.

Stacks have strength in depth in both starting fifteen and what comes in off the bench. Wayne Guthrie is as good a keeper as any while Dylan Casey, Conor Jordan and Paul O'Sullivan and in particular Jack O'Shea are four defenders who could make the team of the championship if Stacks go all the way. In fact Casey and O'Shea are surely catching the eye of Kerry senior boss Jack O'Connor. Another player who must be impressing Jack is midfielder Joe O'Connor who will be partnered by Greg Horan though now that Brendan O'Sullivan is fit again, he might get a start.

Up front Stacks might not have any marquee forwards but they all know where the posts are. Darragh O'Brien, Fiachna Mangan and Shane O'Callaghan can kick points for fun and when you throw in the experience

LEFT: Kieran Donaghy (Austin Stacks). RIGHT: Jack Barry (St. Brendan's Board).

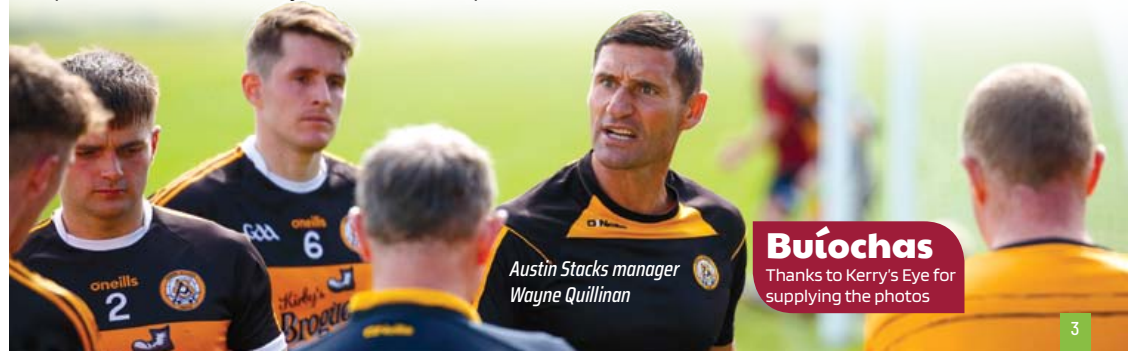


of Kieran Donaghy and the youthful enthusiasm of Armin Heinrich, you have a powerful unit and Sean Quilter has not even been mentioned.

But St. Brendan's also have strength in depth and Eoghan O'Brien is a top class keeper with a booming kick-out. Enda O'Connor (Diarmuid's younger brother) and Damien Burke are tenacious corner backs while Trevor Wallace is an experienced hand. Andrew Barry has been the quarterback of the championship and the St Brendan's defending has been mighty impressive so far. The glamour pairing of their Kerry senior duo of Jack Barry and Diarmuid O'Connor are possibly the strongest in the championship so the battle around the middle will be decisive.

Again just like Stacks St. Brendan's do not have a marquee forward but players like Alan O'Donoghue, Dan Goggin, Ivan Parker, James Duggan, Michael Kelliher, David O'Callaghan if fit and Fionan Mackessy are all good footballers and will have to be watched. So expect this game to be closer than many expect but the odds slightly favour the club side.

VERDICT: Austin Stacks.



Austin Stacks manager Wayne Quillinan

Buíochas
Thanks to Kerry's Eye for supplying the photos

ST. BRENDAN'S BOARD




EOGHAN O'BRIEN
(Churchill)



ENDA O'CONNOR
(Na Gaeil)




TREVOR WALLACE
(Ardfert)



DAMIEN BOURKE
(Na Gaeil)




FERGAL BARRY
(Na Gaeil)




ANDREW BARRY
(Na Gaeil)



THOMAS KEARNS
(John Mitchels)



DIARMUID O'CONNOR
(Na Gaeil)



JACK BARRY
(Na Gaeil)



LIAM O'DONNELL
(Churchill)



DAITHÍ GRIFFIN
(Ardfert)



JOE LENIHAN
(Churchill)



DAN GOGGIN
(Na Gaeil)



ALAN O'DONOGHUE (C)
(John Mitchels)



JAMES DUGGAN
(John Mitchels)

BAINISTÍOCHT:

Donal Rooney, Clive O'Callaghan and David Clifford.

Logistics: Niall Horgan and Brandon Barrett.

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FIR IONAI D

16. DEVON BURNS (Na Gaeil)
17. KIERAN DWYER (St. Pat's)
18. MICHEAL WALSH (John Mitchels)
19. PADRAIG WHITE (John Mitchels)
20. MIKEY KELLIHER (John Mitchels)
21. GEORGE BASTIBLE (John Mitchels)
22. TOMÁS Ó hAINIFÉIN (Na Gaeil)
23. IVAN PARKER (Churchill)
24. CONOR MOORE (St. Pat's)
25. JOHN HORGAN (John Mitchels)
26. FIONAN MACKESSY (Ardfert)
27. DAVID O'CALLAGHAN (St. Pat's)
28. STEFAN OKUNBOR (Na Gaeil)
29. NATHAN O'DRISCOLL (Ardfert)
30. ERIC LEEN (Ardfert)



AUSTIN STACKS



FIR IONAI D

16. ROBBIE MURPHY
17. ARMIN HEINRICH
18. MICHAEL O'DONNELL
19. SEAN QUILTER
20. BARRY SHANAHAN
21. ADAM CURRAN
22. DONAGH McMAHON
23. JACK MORGAN
24. DARA BARRY WALSH
25. BARRY WALSH
26. DAVID FITZMAURICE
27. LUKE CHESTER
28. NIALL FITZMAURICE
29. GEAROID FITZGERALD
30. JOEY NAGLE



WAYNE GUTHRIE



COLIN GRIFFIN



DYLAN CASEY (C)



JACK O'SHEA



PAUL O'SULLIVAN



CONOR JORDAN



RONAN SHANAHAN



JOSEPH O'CONNOR



GREG HORAN



MICHAEL O'GARA



SHANE O'CALLAGHAN



FIACHNA MANGAN



BRENDAN O'SULLIVAN



KIERAN DONAGHY



DARRAGH O'BRIEN

BAINISTÍOCHT:

Wayne Quillinan, Jonathan Conway, Eoin Colgan, Tommy Naughton, Mikey Collins & John O'Sullivan. **SGC:** Damien Ryall. **Physio:** Fionan Hallinan.

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- Liam Lynch - Tralee Area 087-6189655
- Eamon O'Sullivan - St Kierans Area 086-8299584**
- Dermot Weeshie Lynch - West Kerry Area 086-8385187
- John Joe O'Carroll - North Kerry Area 087-6863233**






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ADDITIONAL PANEL MEMBERS - ST. BRENDAN'S BOARD: **31.** Jack Sheehan (Na Gaeil), **32.** Christy Wallace (Ardfert), **33.** Dara O'Sullivan (Churchill), **34.** Seán Broderick (John Mitchels).