

7th May 2012

Our U18 girls concluded their Cork League regular season with an away game against Skibbereen. The girls were guaranteed third spot in the league before this game and therefore rested Ciara O' Halloran ahead of her international games against Wales and Scotland.

Skibbereen went into the game the hungrier side as they knew that they needed a win if they were to qualify for the Top 4 playoffs. They started the brighter and opened up a first quarter 13-9 lead. Our girls were alternating defences in the first half hoping to counteract the outside shooting threat of the Cork girls. There was a big improvement in the second quarter with our girls nosing ahead at the interval 22-21.

A drop in concentration at the start of the third quarter allowed Skibbereen score 7 unanswered points and from then on our girls were playing catch up. Sadly our girls never really imposed themselves on the game in the second half. Their defensive intensity dipped alarmingly and allowed Skibbereen uncontested shots which usually found their target.

In the end this game petered out quite tamely with Skibbereen winning comfortably on a scoreline of 54-43.

Top scorers for Colms were Orlaith Woods 21, Caoimhe Gleeson 8 and Niamh Hannan 7.

Our girls will need to show significant improvement when they face Glanmire in the semi finals of the Top 4 playoffs.

May 11th 2012

The curtain came down on another basketball season for St Colms. Our U18 girls were the last team in action this season as they faced up to Glanmire in the semi finals of the Top 4 Cork League.

This was always going to be a tough assignment as the girls went down narrowly in both their encounters in the regular season. Our girls opened the scoring off the tip off but it was Glanmire who settled the better of the two teams. They opened up a commanding 18-8 first quarter lead, after a flat performance by our girls. The deficit could have been greater, only for our U16 players Lynsey Purcell and Ciara O' Halloran keeping us in touch. The girls were much more focused in the second quarter and came right back into the game to only trail 22-26 at the break.

Slowly but surely the girls were getting back into the game, and helped by some good defensive work by Caoimhe Gleeson and Niamh Hannan had reduced the deficit to a single point 34-35 going into the final quarter.

Two sloppy turnovers at the start of the final quarter gifted Glanmire 4 soft points. This gave the Cork girls some breathing space. Glanmire began to show greater appetite and forced our girls further from the basket with aggressive defence. Nevertheless our girls stuck to the task and with a minute remaining had drawn level on a scoreline of 38 apiece. It was now down to the team that wanted it the most that would win the game. Unfortunately it was Glanmire that showed the greater hunger. They capitalised on two poor offences by our girls to convert two fast breaks and win out on a scoreline of 42-38 after a close encounter.

Top scorers for Colms were Orlaith Woods 19 and Ciara O' Halloran 12.