

LADIES FOOTBALL ► MUNSTER INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Clare have a canter in Clarecastle

Clare 7-15 Limerick 1-03

At Clarecastle

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THIS was always going to be a Sunday morning stroll for Clare — a case of mopping up this provincial intermediate title as quickly as possible before moving on to the much greater challenges that will come their way at All-Ireland level.

To say it was mission accomplished is putting it mildly as they swept to a 30-point success over a Limerick team that was out of its depth against a Clare side that could afford to ring the changes in the second half and still win pulling up.

This job of work was done by half-time — Clare led by 3-10 to 0-1, with the hat-trick of goals coming in the second quarter as they turned the screw against a Limerick outfit was over-run in defence.

The visitors had tried hard in the opening minutes and created a few chances, but Clare began to get into their stride with points from Clíodhna Blake, Fidelma Marrinan and Caoimhe Harvey by the tenth minute — from there they gradually put real daylight between the sides with Limerick's only score of the half coming on 12 minutes through corner-back Olivia Giltenane before Eimear O'Connor cut loose between the 15th and 21st minutes when hitting 2-1 as Clare moved 2-8 to 0-1 clear.

Róisín Considine, Áine Kelly and Niamh O'Dea also hit good points, while a great move involving O'Dea and Blake was finished to the net by the latter to leave 18 points between the sides at half-time.

Limerick may have had the breeze in the second half, but a further 4-5 followed from Clare, while the Shannonsiders were restricted to just 1-1. Clíodhna Blake grabbed two more goals, while Eimear Hillery and captain Laurie Ryan also raised green flags as Clare got some target practice during a game that in the end was nothing more than a training spin.

Clare

Grace Lynch (Cúil Gaels), Laura Egan (Kilmihil), Siofra Ní Chonaill (St Joseph's Doora-Barefield), Carol O'Leary (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Clare Hester (Fergus Rovers), Louise Woods (Banner Ladies), Róisín Considine (Liscannor) (0-2), Laurie Ryan (Banner Ladies) (1-1), Róisín Looney (Cooraclare) (0-1), Fidelma Marrinan (West Clare Gaels) (0-3), Eimear O'Connor (Cúil Gaels) (2-1), Caoimhe Harvey (West Clare Gaels) (0-1), Clíodhna Blake (Doonbeg) (3-1), Niamh O'Dea (Banner Ladies) (0-2), Áine Kelly (Fergus Rovers) (0-1). **Subs** Aisling Reidy (St Joseph's Doora-Barefield) (0-1), Eimear Hillery (Liscannor) (1-1), Ellie O'Gorman (Kilmihil), Nicole O'Doherty (Kilmurphy Ibrickane)

Limerick

Karen O'Dwyer, Shelly Walsh, Sarah O'Sullivan, Olivia Giltenane (0-1), Kate Geary, Niamh Ryan, Caroline Hickey, Loretta Hanley (1-0), Clíodhna Ní Cheallaigh, Cathy Mee, Clodagh McGrath, Louise Ryan, Amy Ryan, Catriona Davis, Kristine Reidy. **Subs** Katie Heelan (0-1), Grain Cronin (0-1).

Player of the Match

Laurie Ryan (Clare)

Referee Seamus Mulvihill (Kerry)

Top right: The Clare panel;

Right: Clare's captain Laurie Ryan who was impressive in Clare's Munster final victory over Limerick.



Easy win for Clare as they look to Down

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FOR Clare Sunday's Munster final was a job done — and a job very well done when you look at the scoreboard that showed 30 points between the sides at the end of the 60 minutes.

Clare were always roaring hot favourites to put some distance between themselves and the Shannonsiders, but according to manager James Murrihy it was about applying themselves to the job in hand as they moved forward to the All-Ireland series as provincial champions for the first time since 2008.

"You can look at it at any level — a Division 2 team playing a Division 4 team," he said. The Clare senior mens team are Division 2 and they beat Limerick from Division 4 by 12 points.

"You are always going to have that gap. From our own perspective we are trying to get ourselves right for the All-Ireland Championship and we can only beat what's put in front of us. In fairness to the girls they applied themselves very well.

"The score after 12 minutes was 0-4 to 0-0. Limerick did have a couple of attacks but once we settled in, what we've been doing in training was carried out on the field and we took our chances. Having said that we did hit the post five or six times for goals and points and I wouldn't be too happy with that," he added.

Clare now go forward to a round-robin group in the All-Ireland series, with their first game against Down pencilled in for 14 July, but there is a chance that this tie will be brought forward by a week. The