

## LEINSTER SPECIAL JHC QUARTER FINAL

# Ratheniska too good for Rangers

**Park-Ratheniska 1-13**  
**Mattock Rangers 1-5**

Jack Nolan

Park-Ratheniska eased into the semi-finals of the Leinster Club Junior hurling championship with a decisive victory over Mattock Rangers of Louth in the Centre of Excellence at Darver on Sunday, as they continued the form that saw them win the Laois title so impressively.

The Laois champions led from start to finish and were never in danger from the beaten Louth senior hurling finalists, and it was only a late goal from Mattock Rangers that put a more respectable look to the scoreboard.

In perfect summer-like conditions, Park-Ratheniska got off to a perfect start when Cathal Og Greene shot a terrific goal after only two minutes, but he was to turn from hero to villain as he incurred the wrath of the referee and was brandished a straight red card just before half time.

The red card was harsh in the extreme as Ogie and Mattock's Graham Condon wrestled on the ground in the only incident of the game, but the referee gave both of them their marching orders at a time when Ratheniska led by 1-7 to 0-2. Both before and after the incident the game was played in the best possible spirit and the loss of Ogie for next weekend's semi-final certainly took a little gloss off the victory.

Park-Ratheniska found scoring difficult in the opening stages even after Green's early goal against a strong opposing defence, and it was the 13th minute before Darragh Nolan shot the first point with a splendid effort under pressure, and then scores quickly followed from Eamon Cooke (2) and Barry and Brendan Fingleton before Johnny Carter shot his second point in the 22nd minute.

Cooke landed another free and Ogie set up Fergal Phelan for an excellent point just before he saw red as Ratheniska led 1-7 to 0-2 at the break.

Mattock Rangers controlled the early exchanges on the restart and forced two long distance frees that Johnny Carter converted, but they were quickly cancelled by a brilliant point from Ger Ramsbottom and another Cooke free.

The Louth men could have made things tighter but for a brilliant point-blank save from Benny Dowling as he saved a certain goal and the final 10 minutes saw Ratheniska control the game as substitute Mark Carroll landed a brace of points and Sean Tynan and Brendan Fingleton fired over wonderful scores for an 11 point advantage.

In the closing minutes a long range free from Declan Madden landed in the square and somehow deceived a packed defence and ended up in the back of the Ratheniska net but it was too late to affect the course of the game as the Laois lads set up a semi final meeting against Kildare's St Laurence's at home next Sunday.

**SCORERS** - Park-Ratheniska: Eamon Cooke 0-4 (three frees), Cathal Og Greene 1-0, Brendan Fingleton (one free), Mark Carroll 0-2 each, Darragh Nolan, Sean Tynan, Fergal Phelan, Barry Fingleton 0-1 each; Mattock Rangers: Johnny Carter 0-5 (all frees), Declan Madden 1-0 (free)

**PARK-RATHENISKA:** Brendan Dowling; Keith McCormack, Dennis Brennan, Brendan Conroy, Gavin Tynan, David Larkin, James Langton; Ger Ramsbottom, Brendan Fingleton; Barry Fingleton, Sean Tynan, Cathal Og Greene, Darragh Nolan, Fergal Phelan, Eamon Cooke. Subs: Paddy Kelly for Phelan, Evin Baldwin for Sean Tynan, Pat McEvoy for Dennis Brennan, Benny Greene for Ramsbottom, Mark Carroll for Darragh Nolan.

**MATTOCK RANGERS:** Rory O'Reilly; Dominic Maguire, Alan Mynes, Declan Madden, Darren Reid, Eoin McKeon, Johnny Carter, Gary Rellis, James Condon, Peter Mullen, Michael Callan, Eddie Condon, Niall MacEaney, Graham Condon, Shane Maguire.



The Park-Ratheniska side which defeated Mattock Rangers at the weekend in Louth



Eamon Cooke in action for Park Ratheniska in the Laois JHC Final. Cooke scored 0-4 last weekend against Mattock Rangers

## LEINSTER JFC ROUND 2

## Spink ousted by Meath champions

**Spink 1-7**  
**Ballyivor (Meath) 0-16**

Greg Mulhall

Getting their provincial aspirations underway, Spink travelled the short distance to Crettyard in search of Leinster glory. Unfortunately for them, the Meath Champions, Ballyivor, were in critical form as they claimed a six point victory.

Ballyivor's travelling supporters were given a lot to cheer about early on as their side dominated the proceedings. After seven minutes Ballyivor found themselves two points ahead following scores from Martin Doran and Pdraig Geoghegan. Yet their dominance wasn't reflected on the scoreboard as they shot four wides in the opening quarter.

Spink opened their account with ten minutes elapsed through goalkeeper and dead-ball specialist, John Dunphy. The Laois substitute goalkeeper made the trek up the pitch to the opposing thirty-five yard line, and made no mistake with the kick to grab Spink's first point in Leinster. However, Ballyivor re-

plied almost immediately as he capped off a great run with a well-taken point.

Spink got a grasp on the game after fifteen minutes with James Doone adding a brace to the scoreboard, which leveled the sides. Spink's roll was to continue as they took the lead for the first, and last, time in the game. Goalkeeper John Dunphy once again made his way up the field and converted the free from thirty yards out.

Ballyivor were determined to reclaim the dominance they had in the opening quarter, and so set about on their scoring spree. In the final ten minutes of the half, they racked up a stunning seven successive points to go in six points ahead at the break and completely blow Spink out of the water. It was a huge psychological blow to Spink coming up to interval, and they struggled to keep up with the tempo.

Ballyivor grabbed three quick-fire points within five minutes of the restart to further cement their lead. Spink's John Dunphy and Ballyivor's Joe McLoughlin exchanged points before points from William Barry and

James Doone reduced the Spink deficit to seven points.

Ballyivor added a further two points through Adam Gannon and Leighton Keegan, before Spink claimed the last score of day, and the only goal also with James Doone knocking in the rebound of Daithi Brennan's saved shot.

**SCORERS** - Ballyivor: Adam Gannon 0-6 (four frees), Martin Doran, Leighton Keegan and Calvin Ryan 0-2 each, Brian Perry, Joe McLoughlin, Sean Heavey and Pdraig Geoghegan 0-1 each. Spink: James Doone 1-3 (0-2 frees), John Dunphy 0-3 (all frees), William Barry 0-1

**BALLYIVOR:** Kevin McKeown; David Ralieg, Fergus McMahon, Brendan McLoughlin; Cillian Canavan, Sean Heavey, Sean Corrigan; Brian Perry, Noel Kirby; Martin Doran, Joe McLoughlin, Pdraig Geoghegan; Leighton Keegan, Calvin Ryan, Adam Gannon. Subs: Richie Sherrack for Brendan McLoughlin; Paul Kelly for Martin Doran; Thomas McLoughlin for Joe McLoughlin; Edward Kirby for Pdraig Geoghegan; Kevin Reilly for Cillian Canavan.

**SPINK:** John Dunphy; Paddy Gorman, Joe Miller, Mick Fenlon; Eamon Jackman, James Walsh, Micheal Downey; Seamus Miller, Seamus Dwyer; Tom Doone, Cha Dwyer, William Barry; James Doone, Liam Lalor, Damien Carter. Subs: Tony O'Shaughnessy for Micheal Downey; Daithi Brennan for Cha Dwyer; MJ Lalor for William Barry



Charles Dwyer on the attack for Spink in the County Final