



January 26, 2015

## Australia share Irish spoils

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY

### Republic of Ireland Schools 1-1 Australia Schools

Georgie Poynton (23)

Matthew Millar (60)

THE Republic of Ireland Schools international team drew 1-1 with their Australian counterparts in an entertaining friendly game at Home Farm FC's Whitehall ground today.

Paddy O'Reilly's side produced a solid display against the touring Aussies, who celebrate their national holiday today.

Conor Melody (St. Joseph's College, Galway) had the game's first chance in the seventh minute when he headed over from a Georgie Poynton (Coláiste na hInse, Bettystown) corner and three minutes later a low strike from Jacob Minett tested Irish keeper Lee McCarron (Crana College) who saved well.

Ireland took the lead in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute when the impressive Georgie Poynton ran onto a flick by Conor Ellis (Colaiste Pobail, Bheanntrai) and raced through to slot the ball past advancing keeper Sam Brown.

Brown saved another strike from Melody in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute as the Irish pushed to extend their lead.

After a raft of changes at the break Australia's substitute keeper Shaun Catlin showed his quality when he held onto a solid strike from Daire O'Connor (Gaelcholaiste na Mara, Arklow) just two minutes into the second half.

Catlin brilliantly denied O'Connor once more in a one-on-one situation in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute after an excellent penetrating pass from Melody sent the Irish midfielder through on goal.

From the resulting corner Ethan Boyle (Wexford VS) headed back across goal and Paul Murphy (Gorey CS) was remarkably denied from a matter of inches out by the outstretched arm of Catlin.

Australia equalised less than one minute later. Matthew Millar got behind the home defence and as he shot he was challenged by Dan Tobin (Oatlands College). The referee awarded a penalty for the challenge and Millar stepped up to stroke home from the penalty spot.

Mark Buckley (MICC Dunmanway) was unfortunate not to put Ireland back in front in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute when he diverted a low cross from Poynton towards goal and once again it was the impressive Catlin who saved.

Australia could have snatched the victory in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute when Steve Whyte produced a powerful strike from outside the box that rattled the inside of an Irish upright and the ball was gathered by the grateful home keeper Corey Chambers.

Chambers (Gorey CS) then made another good save to keep out another decent strike from Whyte less than a minute later.

Neither side could produce a winner and the honours were even at the final whistle

Similarly the Australian girls played out a 1-1 draw in the AUL this evening as they took on a FAI Select with Dave Connell at the helm

O'Reilly has plenty of food for thought now as he prepares his final squad for the Centenary Shield which kicks off on St. Patrick's Day against neighbours Northern Ireland in Ferney Park, Ballinamallard United FC

**REPUBLIC OF IRELAND:** Lee McCarron, Nathan Benson, Dan Tobin, Conor McCarthy, Paul Murphy, Aaron Robinson, George Poynton, Ethan Boyle, Darragh Markey, Conor Ellis, Conor Melody.

**Subs:** Corey Chambers for McCarron 46 mins; Troy Carey for Markey 46; Dylan Watts for Benson 46; Daire O'Connor for McCarthy 46; Jamie Aherne for Melody 61; Oisin Hassett for Boyle 61; Mark Buckley for Ellis 61.

**AUSTRALIA:** Sam Brown, Reece Caldecourt, Marcus Duncan, Cohan Morris, Bodan Allport, Jacob Minett, Felipe Zapata-Castro, Matthew Millar, Steve White, Lachlan Roberts, Oliver Green.

**Subs:** Shaun Catlin for Brown 46; Jack Fulton for Roberts 46; Dylan Wenzel-Halls for Minett 55; Haris Stamboulidis for Millar 71; Dante Stehn for Zapata-Castro 76; Zac Sfiligoi for Whyte 88.

**REFEREE:** Alan Carey (Dublin)



Promoting the game of Association Football in all schools

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