

Subject: Republic of Ireland win Aussie test



Sunday, January 22, 2023

Cunningham strikes late to overcome Aussie test

Under 18 Boys' | Schools International Friendly



Republic of Ireland 2-1 Australia

Eoin Kenny (51), Brian Cunningham (90) Will Freney (53)

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SCHOOLS defeated their Australian counterparts 2-1 in a friendly at Home Farm FC, Whitehall yesterday afternoon (Saturday, January 21).

This was the first competitive outing for John McSHANE's select and it proved to be quite a physical battle. Captain Jesse DEMPSEY (Wexford CBS) had to come off at the break following an earlier collision.

In a scoreless first half, the visitors enjoyed much of the possession but didn't trouble the Irish netminder Ryan DELANEY (St. Francis College, Rochestown).

The hosts were first to make an impact with Adam O'HALLORAN (Clarín College, Athenry) forcing a tremendous save from the Australian goalkeeper with 14 minutes played.

This was followed up by a glancing header from Carrick on Shannon scholar Niall HOLOHAN who went just wide of the mark at the half hour mark.

The Australian keeper was called on again just before the interval as Peter GROGAN (St. Mary's CBS, Carlow) went close.

A string of Irish substitutions at the break saw four changes with Mansfield, Kenny, Mohan and Russell Vargas introduced and we didn't have to wait long for the deadlock to be broken.

Eoin KENNY (St. Mary's College, Dundalk) netted a fabulous opener with 51 minutes registered as Peter Grogan played in Kenny to slot in at the far post from 6 yards out.

However the celebrations were short lived as Will FRENEY equalised two minutes later with a sublime set piece to the top corner.

The last quarter of play was broken up with more substitutions from both benches and this proved decisive.

Brian CUNNINGHAM (Presentation College, Headford) was only on the park 15 minutes when he struck what proved to be the match winner in the 90th minute.

An incredible team goal on the counter attack as Niall Holohan intercepted a Socceroo attack. The Leitrim man played the ball down the wing to Aidan Russell Vargas who fed Cunningham at the edge of the box. The young Athenry star struck to the far post as the ball bundled past the Aussie defense.

Australia's substitute Davd Seselja thought he got an equaliser four minutes into added time but he was ruled to be off-side so Ireland held on for the win.

A nice start for the Irish as they make final preparations for the SAFIB Centenary Shield series opener away to Scotland on February 23. The Republic of Ireland will then face Wales at home on March 9 while England come to

town a fortnight later. The Irish campaign will conclude on March 30 when they travel to Blanchflower Stadium, home of H&W Welders FC to take on Simon Nicks' side (7.0).

The Australian tour continues as the crew travel to Belfast to take on Northern Ireland on Monday afternoon. They're scheduled to lineout against Scotland on Wednesday and the English Colleges before they jet home at the end of the month.

Henderson's side opened their account with a two-nil victory of England Independent Schools last Sunday. This was followed up on Tuesday with a three-one win against Welsh Colleges, but failed to make it a trio of successes as Welsh Schools secured a 4-0 result over the visitors last Thursday night.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SCHOOLS SELECT | Ryan **DELANEY** (St. Francis College, Rochestown), Jonathan **ADEDEJI** (St. Mary's Secondary School, Edenderry), Eli **ROONEY** (Summerhill College, Sligo), Niall **HOLOHAN** (Carrick on Shannon Community School), Senan **MULLEN** (St. Aidan's Comprehensive School, Cootehill), Aaron **HEALY** (Coláiste Choilm, Ballincollig), Ryan **McBREARTY** (St. Mary's Diocesan School, Drogheda), Adam **O'HALLORAN** (Clarín College, Athenry), Peter **GROGAN** (St. Mary's CBS, Carlow), Rhys **KELLY NOONAN** (Coláiste Mhuire, Crosshaven), Jesse **DEMPSEY** © (Wexford CBS)

SUBS USED | Ronan **MANSFIELD** (Blackwater Community School, Lismore) for Dempsey (HT), Eoin **KENNY** (St. Mary's College, Dundalk) for Kelly Noonan (HT), Stephen **MOHAN** (Clonkeen College, Blackrock) for O'Halloran (HT), Aidan **RUSSELL VARGAS** (Lusk Community College) for McBrearty (HT), Daithi **FOLAN** (Belvedere College, Dublin) for Delaney (75), Brian **CUNNINGHAM** (Presentation College, Headford) for Grogan (75), Callum **BONNER** (St. Patrick's Classical School, Navan) for Mullen (75)

MANAGEMENT | John **McSHANE** (Loreto Secondary School, Bray), Derek **O'BRIEN**, Coach (Ardscoil na Mara, Tramore) Ollie **HORGAN**, Coach (St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny), Conor **FOLEY**, GK Coach (Athlone Community College), Martin **CAVANAGH**, Equipment Manager (Carndonagh Community School), Michael **McGLYNN** (Physio), Dr. Aidan **O'COLMAIN** (Team Doctor)

AUSTRALIA SCHOOLS | Sebastian Arranz, Ryan Zanatta, Matej Busek, Ethan DeBono, Thomas Waddingham, Will Freney, Jesse Cameron, Cassidy Tanddo, Owen Henderson, Alexander Trajanoski, Liam Bonetug

SUBS USED | Cayden Hendersn for Arranz (HT), Jesse Photi for Zanatta (HT), Noah Majeroni for Waddington (62), Jack Connors for Freney (75), Christian Bracco for Busek (81), David Seselja for DeBono (85)

INJURED | Isaac Collins

MATCH OFFICIAL | Thomas Joyce (Limerick)

HEAD TO HEAD

12 played; 5 wins, 5 losses, 2 draws

| DATE | RESULT | MANAGEMENT | GOALSCORERS |
|------------------|--|---|-------------|
| January 20, 1989 | Ireland 0-1 Australia | Alex HARKIN, Barry McCOURT, Liam PATTON | Late peno |

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| January 10, 1992 | Ireland 1-0 Australia | Alex HARKIN, Barry McCOURT, Liam PATTON | David Minihan |
| December 10, 1999 | Ireland 3-4 Australia | James RODGERS, Hugh COLHOUN, John M PORTER | |
| 2006 | Ireland 0-1 Australia | John M PORTER, Seán CARR, Hugh COLHOUN | |
| January 25, 2008 | Ireland 1-1 Australia | Seán CARR, Dave ARCHBOLD, Hugh COLHOUN | Philip Hand |
| January 28, 2010 | Ireland 3-1 Australia | Dave ARCHBOLD, Ollie HORGAN, Hugh COLHOUN | Darragh Walshe (22), Daryl Horgan (45), Marwin Azimi (62), Thomas McNeish (26) |
| January 27, 2012 | Ireland 2-3 Australia | Ollie HORGAN, Dave ARCHBOLD, Hugh COLHOUN | Colm Horgan (13) Ryan Meskell OG (26) Stefan Sacilotto (5), Kieran Paull (47) Chernor Bah (60) |
| January 26, 2015 | Ireland 1-1 Australia | Paddy O'REILLY, Dave ARCHBOLD, Ollie HORGAN | Georgie Poynton (23), Matthew Millar (60) |
| January 21, 2017 | Ireland 0-2 Australia | Paddy O'REILLY, William O'CONNOR, Ollie HORGAN | Hassan Jalloh (60, 70) |
| January 19, 2019 | Ireland 3-0 Australia | William O'CONNOR, John McSHANE, Ollie HORGAN | Brandon Bermingham (20 pen, 38 pen), Jake Ellis (60) |
| January 18, 2020 | Ireland 2-1 Australia | William O'CONNOR, John McSHANE, Ollie HORGAN | Brian Ahern (61, 68) Sasha Kuzevski (56 pen) |
| January 21, 2023 | Ireland 2-1 Australia | John McSHANE, Derek O'BRIEN, Ollie HORGAN | Eoin Kenny (51), Brian Cunningham (90), Will Freney (53) |



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