

Chapter One

Crokes v Darnville

‘Go on, Danny!’ yelled Jimmy, as Danny Wilde, captain of Littlestown Crokes GAA team, went on a solo.

It was the second half of the home game against Darnville and Danny was playing a cracker of a game. Jimmy, the Crokes assistant coach, was cheering them from the sidelines of their home ground, the Little Croker.

The Crokes were leading by a single point; Darnville had started the second half with a fast pace and had just scored three brilliant points. The Crokes had yet to score in the second half, but Danny was about to change all that.

Jonathon, Danny’s cousin and fellow midfielder, called for a pass as he had lost his marker. Danny looked up and swerved a magnificent pass across the middle of the

Little Croker, straight into Jonathon's hands.

The Crokes' number eight then fisted the ball to Paul Kiely, Crokes' right half forward, who lobbed a high ball deep into the Darnville defence.

The ball bounced in front of Crokes' full forward, Doyler, who managed to palm it away from his marker and into the path of Todd Bailey, his centre half forward.

'Todd!' yelled Danny as he ran into a space to Todd's left.

With lightning instinct, Todd fisted the ball over the now exhausted Darnville midfielder who had followed Danny upfield.

Danny caught Todd's pass and, as his marker and the Darnville centre halfback closed in on him, Danny shimmied spectacularly around both players, leaving them eating turf.

Danny then fisted the ball over the Darnville full back and sprinted around him, but the Darnville goal keeper lunged out and just as it looked like he would punch the ball away from

goal to safety, Danny Wilde twisted his body around as he leapt into the air and fisted the ball over the Darnville keeper, sending it crashing into the net.

GOAL!

Splinter, Danny's best friend and Crokes' left full forward, jumped on Danny's back.

'Ya mad thing, ya, Danny!'

Mick Wilde (Danny's dad and the team's coach) and Jimmy were jumping up and down on the line.

Mick was always happy when his son scored, but it was even more important to him that his whole team played well, and at the moment, the Crokes were playing fantastic football. They were on a winning streak in the second half of the season and Mick knew that if they could keep it up, they would have a good chance of finishing close to the top of the league table.

The Darnville keeper fluffed his kick out and Todd Bailey pulled off a supreme pick up

then sent the ball over the bar. There was no stopping the Crokes now. Darnville's heads dropped and that added fuel to the fire that powered Danny Wilde's team's engine into super-drive.

Crokes hardly let their opponents out of their own half for the rest of the game, which allowed the Littlestown team to score another two points before the referee blew his full-time whistle.

It was a far cry from the early game in the season when Darnville had beaten the Crokes on their grounds, across town in Darnville.

This game ended with a score of 1-9 to 0-5. Two more points in the bag for Mick's team!