



Historic First Meath Olympic Handball Championship for U-10 Boys

The U-10 boys Olympic Handball team brought home the first sporting silverware won by a St. Paul's team when they claimed the Meath championship with an impressive victory over St. Joseph's (Mercy) NS, Navan. The final score line of 4-0 to St. Paul's reflected the great performance by all the squad of twelve that represented St. Paul's.

The journey to the final:

The final appearance marked a long journey to the final, a journey that started back in early February when they qualified for the quarter finals after a hard earned win against Skryne NS. The regional qualifiers in February was a proud occasion for St. Paul's as our brand new hall hosted two days of competitions and over 16 teams participating. All the visiting schools were very impressed with the facilities and we look forward to hosting similar occasions in the future.

The final stages of the competition took place in Claremont Hall, Navan on Thursday March 22nd. The boys had trained hard since last January and the experience of training and playing against the u-11 boys team had left them well prepared for the big day. Played in a round robin format, our first game was a close affair against St. Oliver's Navan. After taking an early lead with a goal straight from the tip off from Aaron Farrell, we held the lead right up to the final minutes when Oliver's equalized. Although the draw was a good result the boys knew they could play better. Carnaross provided the opposition in our next match and with the winner qualifying for the final, the stakes were high. Straight from the tip off, it was clear that the boys had learned their lesson from the first game and with some great passing movements the boys began to dominate, taking a 3-1 lead into the closing stages. However Carnaross struck for a second goal near the end and the boys had to show great heart and determination to keep the opposition at bay. They defended excellently to eventually hold on for a 3-2 win.

The Final

St. Paul's left saved their best performance of the year for the final. Pitted against a strong St. Joseph's team, the boys knew they would have to pass and defend well to be in with a chance. The boys did not disappoint and took an early lead with Aaron Farrell in fine goal scoring form scoring three in the final to match his tally of three in the semi final. Christopher Joyce also weighed in with a goal to ensure that St. Paul's took home the silverware. Their victory was very much a squad effort with all 12 boys seeing action over the three matches. It was a proud moment as captain Aaron Farrell led the boys up for their medal presentation. With this win under the belt, the boys are already talking about next year's competition!

