

## Rugby

### Leinster Senior Cup 2016

#### Gonzaga v Wesley

Gonzaga beat Wesley College in the Leinster Senior Cup by 19 points to 10 on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January in Clontarf RFC. The match was played on a new artificial pitch in cold and damp conditions with a strong cross wind. Gonzaga suffered a setback when captain, Barry Goulding sprained an ankle in the warm-up. Ten minutes into the match the Wesley right wing fielded a cross-field kick on his own 22-meter line and finding himself in space, out-ran the cover to score under the posts. The try was converted for a 7-nil lead.



Seven minutes later, Gonzaga levelled the score. Following a sequence of rucks near the try-line, Gonzaga moved the ball wide quickly and Harry Brennan, rounded his man on the outside to score a try which Oran James converted. Gonzaga fullback, Seán Galvin fielded two potentially dangerous kicks in quick succession despite the gusting wind and cleared the ball to safety. Then just before half time, Gonzaga appeared to have scored near the left corner flag, but following consultation with the touch-judge, referee John Montaigne awarded a 5-meter scrum to Wesley.



Ten minutes into the second half, Harry O'Grady came within a meter of scoring before the ball broke loose and was cleared to touch. Then Wesley kicked a penalty from a wide angle on the right. This gave them the lead 10 – 7. In the final quarter of the game, Harry Brennan fielded a box-kick on the Wesley 22 near the touch-line and went on a long curving run that took him to just short of the try-line beyond the right-

hand goal post. From here the Gonzaga pack laid siege to the Wesley line, and eventually Alex McEvoy crossed for a try which Oran James converted giving Gonzaga a 14 – 10 lead. The Gonzaga pack worked tirelessly throughout and the back-row of Tom Costello, Jack McNamara and Conor Farrell were particularly prominent in loose play. While the lineout struggled in high winds the scrumaging offered a strong platform for attack.



Then in the closing minutes following sustained pressure from the pack, Harry O'Grady forced his way over for a try which put the result beyond doubt. The final score was Gonzaga 19 Wesley 10.