

## **Cavan XV Ease through the Semi Final**

Open, running rugby is alive and well and residing in Swellan park, the home of County Cavan RFC. On Saturday last, Cavan's 1<sup>st</sup> XV took on Ballyshannon in the quarter final of the Gordon West Cup. Ballyshannon came to Cavan looking to boss them about and take a real scalp. However the visitor's plans became unraveled very early on in this encounter. Cavan's forwards were well organised, quick to the breakdown and snapped up any loose ball. Ballyshannon for there part never really got into any kind of game pattern.

### **The Cavan Pack**

Right from the first whistle the Cavan forwards took control of the ball and the game. They set up an excellent attacking platform which gave their backs room to play expansive running rugby. The running lines of attacking play carved gaping holes in the Ballyshannon defense, with the home side forward dominance tying in their forwards at the break down. At the half time interval Cavan was leading 17 points to no score.

### **Opportunist Try**

The first ten minutes of the second half Ballyshannon were 'trading punches' with Cavan and looked like they might score on at least two occasions. However an opportunist try by Cavan winger Enda Brady damped the visitor's lust for the win. Enda added another try before the end of the game as did centre Daniel Leddy. The try of the game came from unrelenting forward pressure which found Cavan on the Ballyshannon ten metre line. Ballyshannon appeared to have the ruck under control but coughed up the ball and Cavan wing forward Shane McCormack scooped up the loose ball and took route 1 to the goal line. His sheer pace and momentum was unstoppable and in essence his try summed up what was an excellent 'day at the office' for Cavan's 1<sup>st</sup> XV.

### **Away to Letterkenny**

With other quarter finals also decided on Saturday last, Cavan will be traveling to Letterkenny for their semi final class. Letterkenny narrowly beat Monaghan in their quarter final match. These two sides have already met this season, when they played each other in the league. Cavan came out victorious on that occasion and will be hoping to do the same on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, which is the date set for this encounter.

### **Cavan 2<sup>nd</sup> XV v Shorts**

There will be more cup action in Swellan park this Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February when Cavan 2<sup>nd</sup> XV take on Shorts in their McGambley Cup clash. There is huge optimism within the Cavan camp that their 2<sup>nd</sup> XV can progress further in this competition. A home fixture has to be an advantage and Cavan captain Morgan Farrell will be marshalling his troops this week in training to make sure that they are fully prepared for the challenge on Saturday. Local support is always welcome and if last Saturday's game is anything to go by then another great contest is in prospect.