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IRELAND
MEN'S FIRST DIVISION



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
2024 VOLUME 5 • €5

April 5, 2024

Kerry FC



Longford Town

Mounthawk Park

Kick off: 7.45pm



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Sean O'Connell



Victor Udeze in action
against UCD.



Sean McGrath



Ryan Kelliher goes for goal against Wexford FC.

A photograph of two men standing on a football pitch. They are both wearing dark blue quilted jackets with the New Balance logo and the Kerry FC crest. The man on the left is looking slightly to his right, and the man on the right is looking further to his right. The background is a blurred football field with some advertising boards.

From the Dugout

By Conor McCarthy
Kerry FC First Team Head Coach

A very good evening everyone and welcome to Mounthawk Park for tonight's game against Longford Town.

We come into tonight's game off the back of a good run of results, 5 back to back draws in the league mixed with home and away games and we are happy with our progress. To look back on the last two starting with Wexford last Friday, going a goal up early on was important and I was delighted for Sean O'Connell to pick up his first senior goal for the club. I thought we could have pushed on for a second and we had some good chances, but just on the night we couldn't find the net. Wexford pressed hard and got a great equaliser through Dobbs. I thought under pressure we coped well and the draw realistically was a result both teams deserved. When I think back to the 6-0 defeat against the same opposition in Tralee last term, a 1-1 draw was a strong result for us.

The Easter Bank Holiday sprung two games in quick succession and the trip to the inform UCD,

a game in which we had to change it up a bit personnel-wise to keep the side fresh. We were all disappointed with the first half performance and we didn't show what we are capable of. But the boys showed a serious reaction in the second half and Dan got a deserved equaliser in the early stages of the half. Both teams had chances to press on but again a point against a team relegated from the Premier Division in their home ground is a result we are happy with.

Back home this evening and we face a Longford Town team yet to find their feet in the division this year. An unsettled start due to unplayable pitches has them struggling to find a run of form and they sit below us in the league. I'm sure they will be targeting this one to kick-start their season so we have to be ready for the challenge and go hard for the 90+ minutes. We want to keep the unbeaten run going and add a couple of wins to back up the results we have been getting over the last few weeks.

Enjoy the game!



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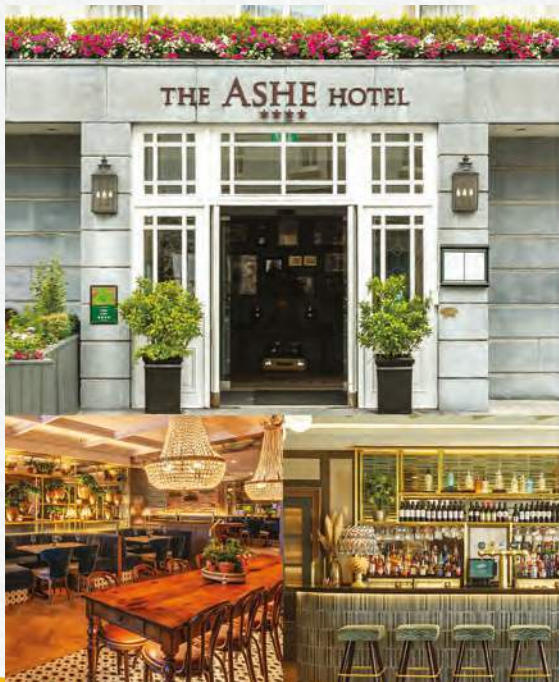


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From the Dressing Room

By Andy Spain
Kerry FC Captain



Welcome back to Mounthawk Park for tonight's game against Longford Town in the SSE Airtricity Men's First Division.

Looking back on the last week from the player's perspective we are overall happy with the results we've picked up over the bank holiday. Sean O'Connell took his goal very well last Friday against Wexford and it was nice to see the boys rally around Brossie on the night. There is great togetherness in the group and the boys showed their class in that moment. The game was a little stop-started for the remainder of the half and losing Sam was a bit of a blow to us so early in the game. But I thought we responded well to Wexford's equaliser. Antonio again was great in between the sticks and kept us in the game while we had our chances to go and win it but in the end, we were happy with the draw.

Onto Monday and the trip to UCD. Again, very tough playing the two games back to back on the one weekend. Training has to be altered, you're a little out of your routine in preparing for the game and it changes up two weeks of your schedule.

We were very disappointed with our first-half performance. We needed to be on it from the word go and on the day we weren't. UCD took their goal well and deserved to be ahead at the break. But we regrouped and came out a different team in the second half. A great finish from Dan after some great work by the boys. Again I felt we were defensively a lot stronger in the second half and limited UCD to a small number of chances. The linesman's flag denied us the winner at the very end but a draw in Dublin is a positive result to build on going into tonight's game.

Longford have had a mixed start to the season, with games shifted around the place with late cancellations down to pitch conditions not helping them get settled into the new season. That is where we have to capitalise and home matches are a huge target for us. I know Longford will be coming down to kick on their campaign but we will be ready for the challenge and we are ready to turn this run of draws into wins and start climbing that table.

Enjoy the game!

Match Report

Kerry FC

v Wexford FC

Friday 29 March 2024

By David Moriarty

Game Week 7

Kerry FC 1-1 Wexford FC

Kerry FC kicked off the bank holiday weekend with a home game in Mounthawk Park against Wexford FC.

Kerry FC came into the game unbeaten in their last four games with a win in the Munster Senior Cup Semi-Final versus Treaty United and three draws in their last three League of Ireland games. Wexford came to Tralee off the back of a hugely dramatic win away to Bray Wanderers in the Carlisle Grounds. A Thomas Oluwa penalty in the eighty-fifth minute secured all three points for Wexford FC. It was Wexford's second win in their opening four games of the season placing them sixth in the table.

Kerry conveyed a fantastic defensive display last week in Ballybofey and hoped for the same on Friday as they set up with the same five in the back defensive system which worked perfectly for them last week, securing their first clean sheet of the season in the process. Kerry were starting to make themselves a tough opposition to come up against and it had to be said that this was something Kerry FC supporters would have hoped for coming into the clubs second season in League of Ireland football.

First Half:

Kerry started the opening exchanges on the front foot and were creating the best chances. Ryan Kelliher had an opportunity to put the home side in front with an early lead in the first minute as he got on the end of a long pass over the top of the Wexford defence. Kelliher's effort went over the crossbar without causing any sort of struggle for Mansfield loanee Owen Mason in between the sticks.



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Just ten minutes later after some fantastic approach play in the attacking third, Kerry struck in front through a first Kerry FC senior goal from left-back Sean O'Connell. Wexford captain Ethan Boyle played the ball out of the box into a dangerous area to Mikie Rowe who was completely unaware that O'Connell was behind him and snuck onto his first touch. The second Sean got in possession of the ball he struck his shot with great precision into the bottom right corner. The goal was followed by a beautiful moment when the entire Kerry team ran over to the bench to celebrate with Cian Brosnan, the club's number 17 who was on the bench following a family bereavement during the week. This moment highlighted the unity and strength within this growing Kerry FC side.

Even though the game started off at a very high tempo, this quickly changed as unfortunate injuries started to control the tempo of the remainder of the half. Players such as Cian O'Malley, Sam Aladesanusi and Aaron Robinson all made way through knocks in the opening forty-five. Even though the fast pace of the game was

entertaining to watch, the stoppages benefited Kerry as it helped them take the wind out of the Wexford sails.

With six minutes added before halftime, there were half-hearted shouts for a Wexford penalty, but referee Chris Sheehan had a perfect view of the situation and decided there was not enough for him to point to the spot on that occasion. In the fourth minute of added time, Ethan Kos did very well to block the shot of Aaron Dobbs. A cross was swung in brilliantly into the back post beating everyone in the air before reaching Dobbs but just as he took on the shot, Kos was on hand to direct the effort out for a corner which eventually led to nothing. Just a minute or so later the final whistle blew in the first half and Kerry were on top in what was an even and entertaining contest.

Second Half:

Five minutes after the restart Wexford got their equaliser and Aaron Dobbs made up for his earlier missed opportunity. A fantastic cross into the area saw Dobbs leap up ahead of Finn Barrett and



Sean McGrath in action.



Sean O'Connell competes in the air.

headed the ball into the left side corner of the goal giving Antonio Tuta no chance. A great goal from a Wexford perspective but it could be said that the cross should have been closed down earlier.

Owen Mason was back in action again as he saved another Ryan Kelliher effort from close range. Twelve minutes later, Daniel Okwute was played in on goal thanks to a superb over-the-top through pass from Steven Healy, but Okwute made the angle that bit harder for himself and dragged his shot a yard wide of Mason's left-hand post.

Wexford started picking up yellow card after yellow card for cynical tackles from the likes of Darragh Livingston, Ethan Boyle and Ben Lynch. This was to prevent Kerry from the counterattack

on each occasion, but frustration started to set in from the home players which led to a yellow card for Kerry FC captain Andy Spain for pointing out these types of challenges to Chris Sheehan.

Cian Brosnan entered the pitch with twelve minutes to go and his pinpoint accuracy on long passes came to fruition right away as he picked out Daniel Okwute. Unfortunately for Kerry, his shot went just wide of the mark on what looked to be the last chance of the night.

Wexford defender Ben Lynch picked up a second yellow and subsequent red card for another poor foul in the last thirty seconds of the game. The free kick was put into a good area but was punched away by Owen Mason and Chris Sheehan blew the final whistle with the game ending in a 1-1 stalemate.

Kerry will be disappointed not to pick up that first home league win but will be pleased with the fact that they are becoming increasingly hard to beat as they are now undefeated in the last five competitive games. This is a great way to be as they now travel to Dublin for the first time to take on UCD on the bank holiday Monday in just two days' time.

Kerry FC Team: 1. Antonio Tuta, 15. Kevin Williams, 18. Samuel Aladesanusi, 5. Andy Spain (C), 6. Ethan Kos, 3. Sean O'Connell (Goal '11), 21. Daire McCarthy, 14. Steven Healy, 7. Sean McGrath, 9. Ryan Kelliher, 11. Daniel Okwute.

Subs: Darragh Foley, Ronan Teahan, Victor Udeze, Kennedy Amechi, Togor Silong, Cian Brosnan, Finn Barrett, Graham O'Reilly, Cianan Cooney.

Wexford FC Team: 21. Owen Mason, 3. Benjamin Lynch, 4. Cian O'Malley, 5. Ethan Boyle (C), 6. Andrew Robinson, 7. Mikie Rowe, 9. Thomas Oluwa, 10. Aaron Dobbs (Goal '50), 12. Luka Lovic, 13. James Crawford, 20. Reece Webb.

Subs: Alex Moody, Darragh Levingston, Kian Corbally, Mark Hanratty, Carl Lennox, Kaylem Hartnett, Brandon Mccann, Cian Curtis, Robbie O'Toole.

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Meet our opposition

By Diarmuid Kearney

Our Opponents This Evening:

Longford travel to Mounthawk Park this evening looking to grab a first win of this campaign, the Midlanders sit bottom and also have a pretty poor run of form to date. The Midlanders drew their last game in Tralee but tasted three points on their first trip down last season.

Who's in the Dugout?

In the dugout for De Town is Stephen Henderson, the former Waterford and Cobh Ramblers boss took over from Gary Cronin, who left the club at the end of the 2022 season.

Henderson prior to joining Longford previously was the manager of Cobh Ramblers, where he led the Cork side to a first league cup final in 2018 after defeating Stephen Kenny's Dundalk in the semi-final, before resigning in June 2019.

His first stint in management was with Ramblers, where he took over in 2004 and led them to the 2007 First Division title, the club's first trophy, he then took over at Waterford in 2009, but was sacked in 2011.

Henderson comes from a goalkeeping family, his father Paddy played in the League of Ireland so did his brother Dave. His younger brother Wayne was a Republic of Ireland international goalkeeper also applying his trade in the UK, as did Stephen's son also called Stephen, with over 200 appearances to his name.

On the Pitch

Town like Kerry are yet to win a game in the Division this season and currently sit bottom of the standings having had a varied run of results thus far. Three points from their opening six



Shane Elworthy

games does see them very much wanting to kick on sooner than later.

It looked like Longford were on course to take three points on Monday away to Cobh, an own goal had given the Midlanders the lead before Cobh struck after the hour mark to level the tie. Longford have indeed taken their points on the road this season, drawing with Bray and local rivals Athlone. Defeats have arrived at the hands of UCD, Cork City and Finn Harps so far this season.



Above: Chris Lyons of Longford Town in action against David Cawley of Finn Harps during their SSE Airtricity Men's First Division match.

Key Men

Shane Elworthy has played every minute for Longford this season and is the only player to do so for the Town. Longford have plenty of experience in their ranks, Jack Brady is a solid goalkeeper but is yet to keep a clean sheet. While Bastien Hery is a veteran of the league having travelled around the land in recent years.

Chris Lyons joining from Bray has bolstered their attacking exploits, he was strong against Kerry last season and will be looking to find the net this evening. Adam Wixted is another who has found the net and alongside Oisín Hand

Facts about Longford Town

Ground: Bishopsgate

Founded: 1924

Last year's position: 8th

Nickname: Town or De Town

Recent Form: DLDDL



and Emmanuel James will bring a threat to the Kerry rearguard.

The returning Karl Chambers is an interesting signing in the off season to help them fight for the play-offs this season. While Dean George arrived from Treaty and has not seen much game time, if he features he will be a threat.

Club History

Longford Town Football Club was founded in 1924 at a meeting held in the Temperance Hall, at that meeting the club were to adopt the colours of Bohemians in Dublin, wearing the famous Red and Black.

Town may have started life with a small budget, their first big success was winning the Leinster Junior Cup in the 1930–31 season when they beat St. Malachy's of Dundalk at Longford Park.

In the 1935–36 season, the Town were promoted to Division 1 of the Leinster Senior League. The following season saw the Town clinch the FAI Intermediate Cup which was a considerable achievement coming so soon after promotion from the Junior ranks. Further Intermediate Cup successes, as well as Metropolitan Cup wins, followed in the 1950s and 1960s.



Bastien Hery

The club was 60 years in existence before its election to the League of Ireland in 1984. In their first season in the league they finished last in the Premier Division and were one of the four sides to be relegated to the newly created First Division for the following season.

In their second season they finished bottom of the First Division with only 7 points. Town finished in the bottom six of the ten-team First Division in each of the next eleven seasons.

The appointment of the then 26-year-old rookie manager Stephen Kenny in the summer of 1998 proved the catalyst for a major upturn in the club's fortunes on the pitch.

In the 1998/99 season, they missed out a place in the promotion/relegation play-off by just four points. The following season saw further improvement when the Town finished in second place and, as a result, won promotion to the Premier Division.

Longford performed admirably in their first season back in the Premier Division finishing in mid-table. That season also saw the club reach

the FAI Cup Final for the first time, where they lost 1-0 to Bohemians.

As Bohs had also won the League title that season, De Town qualified to play in the UEFA Cup in July 2001. A meeting over two games with Bulgarian club side PFC Litex Lovech ended in a 3-1 aggregate victory for the Bulgarians.

From there Longford went on to record numerous different successes in the LOI, winning back to back FAI Cup's in 2003 and 2004, also winning the League of Ireland cup in 2004, one of their biggest trophy wins would be the 2014 First Division title.

Getting them back to the top flight they went back down in 2016, getting promoted once again in 2020, they would suffer another relegation the following season and are in their third year back in the First Division.



Jack Brady

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Meet the Kerry FC Squad

Management Team:

Conor McCarthy – Head Coach

James Sugrue – First Team Coach

Del O'Shea – Goalkeeping Coach

Chris Hegarty – Goalkeeping Coach

Shane Guthrie – S&C



Antonio Tuta
Goalkeeper



Aaron O'Sullivan
Goalkeeper



Robert Vasiu
Defender



Ethan Kos
Defender



Sean O'Connell
Defender



Jack Kavanagh
Defender



Andy Spain
Defender



Kevin Williams
Defender



Samuel Aladesanusi
Defender



Sean McGrath
Midfielder
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Ronan Teahan
Midfielder



Steven Healy
Midfielder



Daire McCarthy
Midfielder



Graham O'Reilly
Midfielder



Togor Silong
Midfielder



Ferdia O'Brien
Midfielder



Oisín Breen
Midfielder



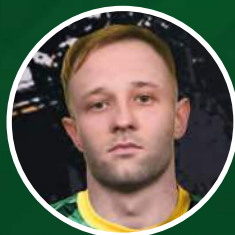
Cianan Cooney
Midfielder



Evison Rramani
Midfielder



Ryan Kelliher
Forward



Valerii Dolia
Forward



Daniel Okwute
Forward



Kennedy Amechi
Forward



Nathan Gleeson
Forward



Cian Brosnan
Forward



Victor Udeze
Forward

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Match Report UCD v Kerry FC

Monday 1 April 2024

By David Moriarty

Game Week 8

UCD 1-1 Kerry FC

Kerry were back on the road on the Bank Holiday Monday as they faced UCD for their first-ever trip to the capital.

It was a quick turnaround from Friday's game which saw Conor McCarthy's men draw at home against Wexford FC.

UCD came into the game with three wins in a row over Athlone Town, Cobh Ramblers, and Longford Town respectively. The confidence in the team was flying as they look to get back to the Premier Division where they had been for the previous two years. Kerry made a couple changes

from Friday night with Victor Udeze and Cian Brosnan starting ahead of Ryan Kelliher and Sam Aladesanusi who was still feeling the effects of his collision on Friday night which forced him off in the first half.

Kerry FC fans were happy with the current unbeaten run by the first team, but UCD was a completely different test and knew that the team needed to be on their A-game if they were to come away from the bowl with the five-game unbeaten streak still intact.

First Half:

Kerry had their first sight of goal when they earned a corner which was swung in by Cian Brosnan. The ball reached Andy Spain who got his head to it but was not anywhere near strong enough to trouble Kian Moore. Daire McCarthy added an effort from far out just six minutes later but was well wide of goal.

UCD had the majority of the possession in the early parts of the game but were not creating anything concrete. Michael McCullagh and Ciaran Behan tried shots from outside the area in an attempt to break the Kerry resistance, but both were saved and gathered by Antonio Tuta. The second attempt was more challenging for the Croatian shot-stopper, but he eventually got down and covered the ball saving any incoming danger of the ball going into an empty net.

Two minutes after the second shot on goal, UCD took the lead. Ciaran Behan who tested the waters earlier had plenty of space to go for yet another effort on goal. He hit the jackpot on this occasion and his left-footed effort darted straight into the right side of the goal giving the hosts the lead with eleven minutes before the break. Behan was involved again five minutes after the goal but not for the right reasons as he was booked for simulation which was not contested by many of his teammates.

The half-finished in a lead for UCD, and it was evident Kerry would need a big pep talk ahead of the second half. Many times, similar to this last season, the game would be finished and done but

the resilience Kerry FC has shown in 2024 has been something we did not see at all last year giving them all the chance in the world of getting back into this game.

Second Half:

Kennedy Amechi and Ryan Kelliher replaced Victor Udeze and Cian Brosnan at halftime in an attempt to salvage something in the second half and just twelve minutes after the restart they did so thanks to Daniel Okwute. Okwute was persistent in creating a chance with the ball on the right wing and got away from two tackles on the flank. His first cross was blocked, and it came back to him to try again which he did and although it went straight into the hands of Moore, the keeper dropped the ball into the back of his own net. Even though it was not as pretty on the eye as his goal away against Athlone, he did not care in the slightest and Kerry were back in it.

The goal in the early stages of the half gave this Kerry team the world of confidence and they were playing much better than the opening half. UCD were going without possession for substantial portions and were being forced back by this



Ryan Kelliher goes for goal.



Sean McGrath

rejuvenated Kerry FC team.

UCD had another couple of big chances towards the end of the game with Ciaran Behan having a header at the near post go just wide of Antonio Tuta's left-hand post. Michael McCullagh had a shot go over the crossbar too as time was running out for both sides to get the winner.

Kerry thought they had won it as a ninety-second minute, but Ryan Kelliher's goal was ruled out for offside. After further inspection after the game, it was fair to say the right call had been made. The rest of injury time was played out and Kerry came out of Dublin in their first trip to the capital with a point.

Just one game away from the first quarter of the season being completed and already Kerry FC have half of their points total of last season. The team is definitely going places and getting better and better each week. Once again, they hope to get that much-needed first-ever League of Ireland home win on Friday night when they take on basement side Longford Town in Mounthawk Park.

UCD Team: 1. Kian Moore, 2. Alex Dunne, 3. Adam Wells, 5. Harvey O'Brien, 6. Sean Brennan, 7. Michael McCullagh, 9. Michael Raggett, 10. Ciaran Behan (Goal '34), 13. Donal Higgins, 18. Niall Holohan, 29. Jake Doyle.

Subs: Dara Kavanagh, Harry Curtis, Colin Bolton, Danu Kinsella Bishop, Ryan McBrearty, Adam Verdon, Luke O'Regan, Hugh Parker, Stephen Mohan.

Kerry FC Team: 1. Antonio Tuta, 15. Kevin Williams, 5. Andy Spain (C), 6. Ethan Kos, 3. Sean O'Connell, 21. Daire McCarthy, 7. Sean McGrath, 8. Ronan Teahan, 22. Victor Udeze, 11. Daniel Okwute (Goal '57), 17. Cian Brosnan.

Subs: Darragh Foley, Steven Healy, Ryan Kelliher, Kennedy Amechi, Togor Silong, Samuel Aladesanusi, Finn Barrett, Graham O'Reilly, Ciaran Cooney.

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Quickfire Questions

>> Steven Healy



Go to song to get you hyped up for a game?
Last Breath by Future

If you could pick 5 guests for a dream dinner party who would they be, Dead or Alive? Steven Gerrard, Lil Baby, Lamelo Ball, Roy Keane and David Beckham

Apart from Mounthawk which is the best stadium you have played at?
Tallaght Stadium

Do you have any superstition you have to carry out before a game? I bless myself before I walk onto the pitch.

Who has the best fashion sense in the squad? Jack Kavanagh for sure

Who has the worst fashion sense in the squad? Antonio Tuta!

What was the first football shirt that you can remember wearing? Rooney
Manchester United Blue Away Kit

If you had to sing a karaoke song what would it be? Love Story by Taylor Swift

Which player do you most base your game off of? Declan Rice

One place you have never been to but would love to go to? New York

Favourite film of all time? Just Go With It

What is one thing not many people would know about you? I'm a type 1 diabetic

Why Daniel Okwute is enjoying his football much more in Kerry FC's second campaign

By Damien Stack
The Kerryman

The Killarney man is thriving under the management of his fellow Killarney man, Conor McCarthy, writes Damien Stack in this week's *Kerryman* newspaper

Bang, bang, bang. Rinse and repeat. Shot after shot after shot. Over and over again.

Under the floodlights in Mounthawk Park it's what he does after every training session. Honing his skill, practising his craft. Putting in the hard yards, fully in the knowledge that practice makes perfect.

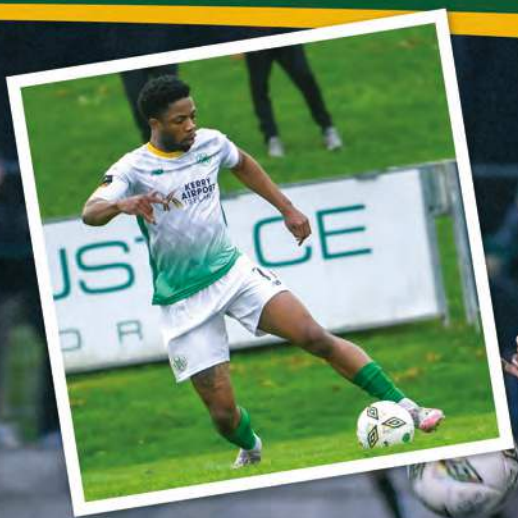
It's just the way the Killarney man is built. Always pushing, always seeking to improve himself. The raw materials he knows are there, knows they were always there.

His athleticism, a baseline level of skill, size, and power, allied to a brain that's sharp enough to realise that if you're to succeed you can't afford coast on those things.

So, that's why he does it. Trying shots from this angle or that, at pace, on the run, on the turn, or volley, or even from a standing start. Doing everything possible to replicate potential in-game scenarios.

Signs on Daniel Okwute has arguably been Kerry FC's most improved footballer from year one to year two. He's been such a handful for opposition full-backs this season, direct, road-





Daniel in action against Wexford Town and (inset) away to UCD.

runner quick, with plenty guile and, yes, end product too.

The goal he scored against Athlone Town the other week, well, that was a worldie. Taking possession down the right, cutting in to the edge of the box, striking off his left, hitting the top left-hand corner of the goal with the precision of true marksman.

It was the former Stockport County man's first goal of the season, and it was coming. At home to Bray Wanderers, Okwute could have bagged a hat-trick and did have the ball in the back of the net at one stage (following another brilliant finish) only for it to be ruled offside. Now that he's off the mark, we suspect more goals are to follow. Everything is in place for that to happen. His confidence is soaring,

he is a good place at a club he knows and loves, and the system new boss Conor McCarthy is employing sort of suits him down to the ground.

More often than not this year Okwute's fellow Killarney man has been playing a four, three, three with a central striker and two wingers. Nathan Gleeson/Kennedy Amechi down the left, Ryan Kelliher through the centre, with Okwute down the right.

"It does [suit me]," Okwute admits.

"I think everybody's comfortable now with this formation, but it's still a good thing that we can change formations and adapt as well. That's a bonus as well."

"To be honest I think I'm a better winger than a striker. I can play striker sometimes as well,



you know? But I think I'm a better winger to be honest, I like it better."

Everything feels that bit more settled this year for Kerry FC and their stand-out signing of last year's summer window.

That was Okwute's third big move in the space of about eighteen months – signing for Stockport, Finn Harps and, finally, the Kingdom – so it's, perhaps, unsurprising it's only now we're seeing the best of the twenty-year-old. "I'm enjoying my football this year a lot more," he confirms.

"Last season I got a couple of injuries and it was kind of stop-start. I had a bit of momentum and it just died off then because of the injury. Obviously, touch wood, I don't get injured and I've been enjoying my football a lot this season. "This season I think it's a bit more organised. Last season was a just a bit rushed. It was our first year, so we didn't really know what to expect, but I think this season now, with the pre-season and the games coming in so I think everybody's taken it really well."

The squad too is that much stronger. Everybody – himself included – is a year older and the new signings have really made a strong impression (those who have been in a position to at least).

"It's a way stronger squad," Okwute enthuses.

"Having the likes of Andy Spain with his experience of Treaty and I think he's been in Athlone as well and stuff like that. I think obviously Jack Kavanagh, he's still due to play, but the likes of them they have so much experience and that's just going to make the team stronger and just a better team over all." The game with Finn Harps the other week was almost coming a full circle for Okwute, or at the very least a reversal of an experience he had last season when rocking up to Mounthawk Park in the visitor's dressing room.

That, he says, was the "weirdest" experience of his career in football. Of course, that's the nature of the professional game, even so to return to Finn Park in the visitors' dressing room was partially a mirror of that.

While keen to get back to the Kingdom



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when the opportunity presented itself last summer, the Killarney man has fond memories of his time in Ballybofey (he was on loan from Stockport at the time).

"Up in Donegal those lads were, obviously, really good to me and I'm lucky to have had lads like that," he says.

"Same down here as well. It was a different experience for me, an experience where I was a bit home-sick, but I enjoyed it as well."

A share of the spoils on match day six was a very solid return for the Kingdom as they maintained their recent unbeaten run (three draws on the spin for the green machine). Possibly just as important, however, was the chance for the squad to bond on the over-night trip.

"I'd like to think we're a very together group already, but obviously it helped as well," Okwute reflects.

"I think the team is used to everyone. New players come in like Andy Spain and Steven Healy and Darragh [Foley] they fitted in perfectly

when they came in."

As encouraging as those recent draws have been – two in the last week alone, the second thanks to another Okwute league goal – the one thing that's eluding this squad is a league win. A first ever League of Ireland win for the Kingdom in Mounthawk Park would be very welcome indeed for players and fans alike.

"I think everybody can see we're playing really good football and this year we haven't really conceded that many goals," Okwute explains.

"We look like a good side, but the first home win... I go in to every game thinking we're going to win so this week, I'll do the same. Go in and think we're going to win."

Longford Town are next up and this Kerry side have shown they can live with the best, it's only a matter of time before they get that win. A win courtesy of a Daniel Okwute special, perhaps? With the way he's playing it's certainly on the cards.

Bring it on.



**Best of luck to everyone at Kerry FC
for the new season**



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SSE Airtricity First Division League and FAI Cup Fixtures 2024

| Round | Date | Time | H/A | Opponent | RESULT |
|-------|------------|-------|-----|-------------------|---------|
| 1 | 16-02-2024 | 19.45 | A | Cork City FC | 0-2 (L) |
| 2 | 23-02-2024 | 19.45 | H | Bray Wanderers FC | 2-3 (L) |
| 3 | 01-03-2024 | 19.45 | H | Treaty United FC | 0-1 (L) |
| 4 | 08-03-2024 | 19.45 | A | Athlone Town AFC | 1-1 (D) |
| 5 | 15-03-2024 | 19.45 | H | Cobh Ramblers FC | 1-1 (D) |
| 6 | 22-03-2024 | 19.45 | A | Finn Harps FC | 0-0 (D) |
| 7 | 29-03-2024 | 19.45 | H | Wexford FC | 1-1 (D) |
| 8 | 01-04-2024 | 17.00 | A | UCD | 1-1 (D) |
| 9 | 05-04-2024 | 19.45 | H | Longford Town FC | |
| 10 | 12-04-2024 | 19.45 | A | Treaty United FC | |
| 11 | 19-04-2024 | 19.45 | H | Athlone Town AFC | |
| 12 | 26-04-2024 | 19.45 | A | Bray Wanderers FC | |
| 13 | 03-05-2024 | 19.45 | H | Cork City FC | |
| 14 | 06-05-2024 | 17.00 | A | Longford Town FC | |
| 15 | 10-05-2024 | 19.45 | H | UCD | |
| 16 | 17-05-2024 | 19.45 | A | Wexford FC | |
| 17 | 24-05-2024 | 19.45 | H | Finn Harps FC | |
| 18 | 31-05-2024 | 19.45 | A | Cobh Ramblers FC | |
| 19 | 03-06-2024 | 17.00 | H | Treaty United FC | |
| 20 | 07-06-2024 | 19.45 | A | UCD | |
| 21 | 13-06-2024 | 19.45 | H | Longford Town FC | |
| 22 | 28-06-2024 | 19.30 | H | Wexford FC | |
| 23 | 04-07-2024 | 19.30 | A | Finn Harps FC | |
| 24 | 12-07-2024 | 19.45 | H | Bray Wanderers FC | |
| 25 | 26-07-2024 | 19.45 | A | Cork City FC | |
| 26 | 02-08-2024 | 19.45 | A | Athlone Town AFC | |
| 27 | 09-08-2024 | 19.45 | H | Cobh Ramblers FC | |
| 28 | 24-08-2024 | 19.30 | A | Longford Town FC | |
| 29 | 30-08-2024 | 19.45 | H | UCD | |
| 30 | 06-09-2024 | 19.45 | A | Treaty United FC | |
| 31 | 13-09-2024 | 19.45 | H | Cork City FC | |
| 32 | 20-09-2024 | 19.45 | A | Bray Wanderers FC | |
| 33 | 27-09-2024 | 19.45 | H | Finn Harps FC | |
| 34 | 04-10-2024 | 19.45 | A | Cobh Ramblers FC | |
| 35 | 11-10-2024 | 19.45 | A | Wexford FC | |
| 36 | 18-10-2024 | 19.45 | H | Athlone Town AFC | |

ON SITE NOW

A silver Fiat Scudo and a silver Fiat Ducato are parked on a dirt road at a construction site. In the background, the steel framework of a building is visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds. A construction crane is also visible in the distance.

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SSE Airtricity First Division League Table

| Position | Team | Won | Lost | Draw | Points |
|----------|----------------|-----|------|------|--------|
| 1 | Cork City | 5 | 0 | 3 | 18 |
| 2 | Finn Harps | 5 | 1 | 2 | 17 |
| 3 | UCD | 4 | 3 | 1 | 13 |
| 4 | Treaty United | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| 5 | Athlone Town | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | Wexford | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| 7 | Cobh Ramblers | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | Bray Wanderers | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | Kerry FC | 0 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| 10 | Longford Town | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 |



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HEAD COACH: Conor McCarthy

- 1. Antonio Tuta (GK)
- 2. Rob Vasiu
- 3. Sean O'Connell
- 4. Jack Kavanagh
- 5. Andy Spain (C)
- 6. Ethan Kos
- 7. Sean McGrath
- 8. Ronan Teahan
- 9. Ryan Kelliher (VC)
- 10. Valerii Dolia
- 11. Daniel Okwute
- 12. Kennedy Amechi
- 13. Nathan Gleeson
- 14. Steven Healy
- 15. Kevin Williams
- 17. Cian Brosnan
- 18. Samuel Aladesanusi
- 21. Daire McCarthy
- 22. Victor Udeze
- 25. Graham O'Reilly
- 26. Togor Silong
- 27. Ferdia O'Brien
- 29. Oisin Breen
- 30. Aaron O'Sullivan (GK)
- 31. Cianan Cooney
- 32. Evison Rramani



MANAGER: Stephen Henderson

- 1. Jack Brady
- 2. Shane Elworthy
- 3. Kyle O'Connor
- 4. Jamie Egan
- 5. Oisin Hand
- 6. Ross Fay
- 7. Luke Wade-Slater
- 8. Viktor Serdeniuk
- 9. Chris Lyons
- 10. Sami Clarke
- 11. Adam Wixted
- 12. Jack McCarthy
- 13. Emmanuel James
- 14. Jack Harrington
- 15. Dean O'Shea
- 17. Jordan Tallon
- 18. Karl Chambers
- 19. Mohammed Boudiaf
- 20. Conor Crowley
- 21. Bastien Hery
- 22. Fran Campbell
- 23. Vasyl Tropanets
- 24. Aaron Walsh
- 25. Guilherme Rego Priosti
- 28. Callum Bonner
- 30. Dean George



REFEREE: **Gavin Colfer**

ASSISTANTS: **Conor Fitzgibbon,**
Christopher Braganza

FOURTH OFFICIAL: **Aaron O'Dowd**

SCORE

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