

Washed out again

Not for the first time this year the weather played havoc with the Setanta Programme when last weekends U-13 hurling challenge games against Wexford and Waterford had to be postponed on Saturday morning because of waterlogged pitches.

With the Juvenile Board finishing off their championship and leagues over the coming weekends it will not be possible to reorganise these games in the immediate future but it is hoped to do so around the mid term break.

Meanwhile the U-10, 11 and 12 Setanta squads can look forward to a day trip away at the end of the month to finish off their year's activities.

Players in top shape

The management of the U-14 team that won the All Ireland Sonny Walsh Cup in Waterford recently want to acknowledge the magnificent work carried out by Deirdre and Chris Simpson from the Leinster Sports Injury Clinic at Old Mill in Portlaoise throughout the year in ensuring that the players were in peak physical condition.

Deirdre and Chris attended every game and training session held throughout the summer and crucially were present at all the games in Waterford when particularly over the three tough, physical games on the Saturday their services were crucial in having the players in tip top shape for Sundays final.

Chris is the team fitness coach while Deirdre, a sports injury therapist, worked on the player's injuries and without her healing hands a number of players may not have even got to play in Waterford at all. Amazingly the two of them gave their services free of charge throughout the year to the team, and there wasn't two more delighted people in Walsh Park when Laois won the final.

A very popular Deirdre was rewarded by the

players for her dedication, commitment and expert therapy after the game by the players when they showered her with water!

Top scorers

The Laois u-14 side came away from the Tony Forrestal Tournament with some interesting scoring statistics. In all they scored 8-48 in their four games – an average of 2-12 per game while conceding only 2-25 in total.

Goalkeeper Eoin Fleming made some magnificent saves while keeping two clean sheets and only conceding two goals in the entire tournament behind a top class defence of Jimmy Fox, Paddy Bergin, Conor Lewis, Martin Daly, Dean Lynch and Aaron McGowan. In the final they only conceded two points from play.

In all eight players contributed to the total scores with Cha Dwyer tops with 4-19, PJ Scully 0-15, Darragh Nolan 3-5, Joe Bennett 1-1, Brendan Ryan 0-4, Paul Woods 0-2, Aidan Lenihan 0-2 and Paddy Bergin 0-1.

8-38 came from play with PJ Scully converting nine frees and showing huge skill at this level by doing a Joe Canning and slicing a 45m sideline cut between the posts as well.

Coaching courses

A foundation level coaching course is being organised for Saturday October 4 in Portlaoise GAA Centre for all clubs in the county that have personnel that want to get a basic qualification to coach underage teams in both football and hurling.

This is an ideal opportunity for parents or players who want or intend to help out with club teams next year and it is now a prerequisite for anybody who wants to be involved with juvenile teams.

A level 1 course for hurling will be held before Christmas while a similar one for football coaches will be held early in the New Year.

Further information from Pat Critchley or the County Board Offices at New Road Portlaoise. 057 86 60674.



Back Row: Mick Scully, Shay Kelly, Aaron Moore, Darragh Nolan, Aidan Lenihan, Niall Sinnott, Aaron McGowan, Conor Lewis, Joe Bennett, Cha Dwyer, Martin Daly, Paddy Bergin, Sean Corby, Donnacha Dowling, Brendan Ryan, Sean Walsh, Tony Woods.

Front Row: Kevin Lynch, Eoin Carroll, PJ Scully, Steven Finnan, Dean Lynch, Paul Woods, Eoin Fleming, Jimmy Fox, MJ Dunphy, David Mortimor, Ciaran McEvoy, Shane Cleere, Sean Culleton.



The Ballyroan School of Excellence took place from Monday, July 28 to Thursday, July 31. The camp was organised and ran by Laois senior footballers Pdraig McMahon and MJ Tierney. All the children had a fantastic time and the parents greatly appreciated the organisation by Pdraig and Michael.