

SSE AIRTRICITY WOMEN'S PREMIER DIVISION



# CITYVIEW



## CORK CITY

V ATHLONE TOWN

Saturday October 23rd, 2023

TURNER'S CROSS, CORK

Kick Off 3pm



@CorkCityFCWomen



@CorkCityFCWomen





# FROM THE DUGOUT

A big welcome to Ciarán and everyone from Athlone Town to today's game. The game was refixed from a few weeks ago and we the players can go into this game with a sense of belief that I always have in them after a couple of good results the last few weeks.

I was happy with win last weekend, first half we played some really good football, but we all feel it wasn't our best performance in the second half, but to win a game not being pretty, doing the hard bits is a real positive to take from the game.

The pitch was quite heavy and with some of the girls involved in college games during the week, we made quite a few changes in the game, but three points, a clean sheet and defending the way we did, putting our bodies on the line, was brilliant.

Athlone are a little different to what they were earlier in the season, they're not as direct and try to play more football. There will be opportunities for us within the game because of that different style and we're capable of facing that, implementing our game plan and getting what we want out of the game. We just need to go out and be confident and play as we have been the last few games.

We want to put on a performance that shows what we know we're capable of and get another positive result against Athlone today.

Enjoy the game,  
*Danny Murphy*



# WOMEN'S ACADEMY FIXTURES

WU19

**CORK CITY VS PEAMOUNT UTD**  
SUNDAY | BISHOPSTOWN | 3PM



WU17

**CK UNITED VS CORK CITY**  
SATURDAY | ST. PATRICK'S CARLOW | 5PM



Our Wu19s take on Peamount united in their final game of the season tomorrow, also the final game under the excellent management of Jess Lawton, departing after 5 remarkable years at the club. Read More here...

[Jess Lawton departs](#)



Congratulations to Keira Sena, Clodagh Fitzgerald & Ciara Fitzpatrick who represented Ireland Wu17s in Poland over the past ten days. All three featured in games and best of luck to Ciara following an injury picked up at camp.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER





# NO PLACE LIKE HOME



Back in a Cork City Shirt after a couple of years playing with Treaty United, Heidi O'Sullivan sat down with City View to talk about her journey, the buzz of scoring for your hometown club and why she knows there's more to come from her in the future.

“I started with Douglas Hall when I was about 4, my dad managed loads of team so I was seeing that growing up and my brother playing. I just followed them really, going out and training with my brother’s teams and just always being there.”

“After a year or two I moved on to Lakewood and played in the academy like every girl does and then when I was about nine, the manager there [Ger Cahill] saw something in me and called me up to the U12 team and I started playing with the likes of Eabha O’Mahony and Zara Foley and then it kicked on from there I suppose winning Cups and leagues, I never really thought about the age gap really. I just wanted to go out and play.”

“I was playing up the ages as well as my own age in Lakewood, that got me seen in the trial process for the Cork team and I suppose that’s where you really get your first taste of competitive football. There were brilliant players at that time, even U12 we got to the last four in Ireland for the finals. The first year of Gaynor Cup we won the shield, I was about 13 playing that and then the following year we won the Cup and I suppose that was getting a taste of winning bigger competitions.”

“Around the same time then I started training with Cork City U17s while I was still playing with Lakewood and that gave me the chance too to play on some of the boy’s teams and just test myself and try something a bit different with the physicality, I played U15 and U16 boys.”



“When I was playing boys my own age, I found it grand. I was tall, I haven’t grown all that much since I was like thirteen or fourteen” she laughs “I said I may as well try it, but it gave me a lot of confidence because I felt I was able to hold my own.”

“The performances in Gaynor as well saw me get picked for Munster and I captained them and scored a hat-trick against Ulster in the interprovincial competition. I went into City at 15, it was really a choice between City and another Gaynor, but I’d had two years of Gaynor, so it was a bit like ‘*move on a bit*’ and that was the next step for me. That all led to Ireland then and I was picked to go to the Bob Docherty Cup but unfortunately it got cancelled due to Covid.”



“That was a very strange season, also in the U17 league with City, we played the first section, then it was stopped and restarted, and we ended up in the final against Shamrock Rovers which we won. Rovers had Jessie Stapleton and Jamie Thompson, their midfield was unreal, we were massive underdogs in that game, it was amazing to win it.”

“After that season with City, I just wanted to see if I could stretch myself a little and Treaty had a new manager who went in with their U17s and he contacted me and he sold the opportunity well and how they would build me up, so I went there and to be honest it worked out great, winning the league again and captaining them. I was in with the Irish U16s at that stage too, in with a leadership group there to give you that kind of role as a leader. I had the Irish U17s and involved in a great Euros run.”

Heidi's rapid acceleration through the ranks continued and Senior Football came calling. “Yeah, I started playing up with the Treaty Seniors and that was tough, I was so young, but the team was so young I was nearly one of the oldest there, I was almost seen as one of the leaders, which I don't mind, growing up I suppose I've always been looked at a leader on teams and that gives me motivation too. There was an element that I'd been so used to winning trophies underage, it was always the norm. We went from winning to losing so quickly then with the Treaty Seniors.”

“It wasn't difficult to stay motivated in a way, on a personal level you have your own goals but as a team it was tougher. You have lots of different personalities in a dressing room and some wouldn't be as strong and turn negative when you would lose a few games in a row, and training could drop then.”



“I picked up my injury and I was out for ten months, and I missed out on Ireland opportunities, and it was tough to get back to the level where you want to be.”

“But I had to get it fixed and I had surgery and physio, and then I had to be cleared to return to play. It was really hard, I wasn't even able to run and then you see Irish teams going away knowing that if you were fit, you would probably have been on those squads.”

I went back into Treaty, and it just didn't feel like it was moving on and all the time I could see Cork City and how much it was changing with Danny. It really was an opportunity to take. The travelling as well was tough as well, facing into my Leaving Cert and going up to Limerick three nights a week, doing the homework in the car, there just wasn't enough in Treaty to keep that going for me. So, I'm back in now three months and absolutely delighted.

The difference since I left is unbelievable. You wouldn't think it would be that different., but it is. The people around us are giving us all they can, but even then, we know there's more to come from all of us. When I was still with Treaty, we played City and I could see the things that were being implemented, and then from chats and even social media looking at the access to gyms and then talking to Danny, there was so much positivity coming from him towards me.

Heidi returns to attitude "even when City were losing there was still great positivity and belief in the dressing room. I think that comes from Management, driving on standards and focusing on the detail so you improve. It was lovely to score at the weekend, obviously the main thing was the three points and building on the performance against Sligo and we were positive going into the game, but yeah, it was a great feeling to score against a former club, but it just does mean more to score for your hometown club, it's just a different buzz anyway. "



"With the form we have been in the last few weeks, we know there's more to come but we know what we can bring ourselves and even if we're underdogs, we have a bite to us."

"I'm looking forward to the off-season because I want to work hard and get a good pre-season into me because I was to get my place in the team and with a new season come changes, so I want to be at my best. There's more to come from me, it's not even that there might be because I know there is – I want to get back to my pre-injury levels and I believe I can be one of the main players for Cork City in a team that's pushing on and challenging for trophies in a few years."



# About the Town

Managed by former Cork City star Ciaran Kilduff, Athlone Town have won three of their four league games since the return from the summer break including a 5-0 victory over 5<sup>th</sup> place Bohs. Their only defeat since in this period was a narrow 2-1 defeat to Shels on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Athlone will face Shels again in the Women's FAI cup final on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> in Tallaght Stadium. Athlone town will aim to avenge the 2-0 defeat they suffered at the hands of Shels in the 2022 final. Their 2023 cup campaign has included two penalty shootout victories over league champions Peamount and All Ireland Cup winners Galway United. This was followed by a comfortable 4-0 semi-final victory over Sligo Rovers.

Athlone came back from the summer break with a point to prove and despite being 7<sup>th</sup> place in the league table they are currently two points behind fourth place Galway United. Only Peamount have accumulated more points than Athlone since the return of the summer.

Two stand out players for Athlone Town in recent games have been American midfielder Madison Gibson and Ireland U19 goalkeeper Katie Keane. Gibson played in the American College system before going to Lithuania to play Champions League football with FC Gintra. She is now enjoying her second season with Athlone Town.

Just like Clodagh Fitzgerald in the City net, Athlone have a teenage goalkeeper making her mark on the league. Katie Keane (17) started the 2023 campaign with Shels before moving to Athlone during the summer break. Keane was the hero in the penalty shootout against Peamount and hasn't put a foot wrong since establishing herself as the Athlone net minder.



# 2023 PLAYER SPONSORS

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**SINGLETON'S SUPERVALU** **AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (AWAY)**

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10. EVA MANGAN



**AVONDALE JUNIORS** **AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (AWAY)**

11. SHAUNAGH McCARTHY



**Ballincollig CREDIT UNION LIMITED** **STONEHOUSE NAMEPLATES**

13. ELLIE O'BRIEN



**The Corner Flag BAR & LOUNGE** **ZERO GRAVITY FLOAT**

14. ADIBHIN DONNELLY



**PJS RENT A CAR** **UCC VISITOR SERVICES**

15. CHLOE ATKINSON



**AVONDALE ACADEMY** **AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (AWAY)**



**15. LAURA SHINE**

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**17. HEIDI MACKIN**

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**18. JESSE MENDEZ**

**The Corner Flag** **Audivox**  
BAR & LOUNGE HEAR THE VOICE  
BLISS IN AIR POWER & GREAT



**19. NIAMH COTTER**

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**23. FIANA BRADLEY**

**EINO O'MAHONY** **AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (AWAY)**



**24. ALIX MENDEZ**

**Audivox** **AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR (AWAY)**  
HEAR THE VOICE  
BLISS IN AIR POWER & GREAT




City View. Season 2. Issue 10

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Cover Design: Wayne Mullins