

# Massive challenge' facing Dublin hurlers in Galway this weekend

Wexford 0-22  
Dublin 2-21

Dublin senior hurling manager Niall Ó Ceallacháin says his side's victory over Wexford last weekend gives them "a shot" at a Leinster title but that they face a "massive challenge" when they travel to take on Galway at Salthill on Saturday afternoon.

Currently on five points after three games and with games against the Tribesmen and Kilkenny remaining, victory this weekend would leave the Dublin men in a very healthy position going into that final fixture with the Cats in Parnell Park on May 24.

Toppling Wexford in their own backyard had to be achieved to create what is a very positive situation for O Ceallacháin's charges, but Galway are unbeaten for a reason, however, Kildare's superb display against Micheál Donoghue's men in Newbridge should give the Dubs plenty of cause for optimism. But getting that victory in a windy Wexford Park was all that the visitors were focused on last weekend, and while a superb display in the first half that left them nine points clear at the break was pleasing, O Ceallacháin says the battling and application of his side in the second was also really, really positive.

"This was a must-win game, an absolutely must-win game, where we were in no doubt that lose this game and we were out of the Leinster championship. The objective was to



Niall Ó Ceallacháin, left, and Dublin selector David 'Dotsy' O'Callaghan Sportsfile

win the game, a massive challenge away down here in Wexford Park, everything that Wexford were going to bring, and did bring.

"To be on five points this evening is where we wanted to be and it's where we are," he said.

"For those not here, the wind is massive, the wind was really significant there today. We got the couple of goals, and we got to nine points [in front at half-time], which was obviously a huge part of it. I'd be just as pleased if not more pleased with the second half as well.

"They came with everything, they threw everything, particularly when they got two or three scores in a row, which was probably the max they got in a row. We found a way to keep our

scoreboard ticking over, be it win a free and someone scoring it or someone with a key ball and just keeping us going, and then the key part was shut out, to have no goals during that period when they were throwing the kitchen sink at us, it was absolutely crucial as well.

Speaking to Dubs TV after the game, the Dublin manager said that David Purcell's performance was a high point and that Liam Rushe's display, mostly on Wexford star Lee Chin, was also vital. "David started the game, his first start at senior hurling for Dublin. He got the early goal, and I thought he worked really hard. He had a turnover in the left corner-forward position in the second half as well, got himself involved, so a really, really

positive day for David.

"And Liam was a key part of it there at six. He ended up on Lee Chin there for a good part of the game, too, so he was a key part of how we set up, and how we shut out and ended up with a clean sheet there.

A tally of 14 points left no doubt as to who was the man the match after this game, and Niall Ó Ceallacháin was quick to point out that some of the frees Donal Burke slotted over were far from routine.

"Just the mindset Donal has, his cool head at crucial times, too, that's probably when I talk about that second half, and being pleased with that, we never let them get three or four scores in a row and the energy and momentum that comes from that," he said.

"We kept our scoreboard ticking over – that was often Donal, a couple from play, but mainly from somebody winning a free and putting the ball down. They're not routine frees, they're crucial, crucial frees. I don't think he missed a free. He nailed them all as far as I know, and it's one thing not getting the point up, but missing them can give energy and momentum to the other team, too, and he didn't miss them once, and he was a key part of that win," he added.

A tough trip to Salthill awaits the Dublin men, one that this victory over Wexford should send them marching towards with no shortage of belief and confidence.



Jodi Egan gets away from the Meath defence

## O'Connor and Egan in fine form as Dublin topple Meath

Dublin 1-11  
Meath 0-5

later with a superbly struck free from Orlaith Mallon.

By Daire Walsh

Caoimhe O'Connor and Jodi Egan were in fine scoring form at Parnell Park as defending champions Dublin secured a convincing win against Meath to set up a final meeting with Kildare in the TG4 Leinster senior football championship.

Searching for their 13th consecutive Leinster SFC title in 2026, Dublin were on top of possession during the early exchanges and broke the deadlock when Niamh Hetherton kicked a right-footed effort between the posts in the eighth minute.

Orlath Nolan was subsequently denied a goal at the end of an intricate move, but the two-time TG4 All Star doubled the home side's cushion with a fine point from play at a tight angle.

Although the Meath defence made them work for their scores throughout the opening period, Dublin created further daylight courtesy of quickfire points from marauding wing-back Sophie McIntyre and Egan.

While the Royals, who needed a win in order to seal a provincial final spot, breathed a sigh of relief when O'Connor rattled the woodwork off a goal chance in the 26th minute, Wayne Freeman's visitors finally opened their account 60 seconds

Although the Navan O'Mahonys player added a second point to leave Meath just two in arrears (0-4 to 0-2) at the interval, Hetherton had Dublin back up and running within 30 seconds of the resumption.

She was later joined on two points by Egan after the Foxrock/Cabinteely attacker knocked over a routine free and the increasingly dangerous O'Connor went on to match their personal hauls with a quickfire brace that had Dublin firmly in the driving seat.

Meath were now struggling to contain their well-drilled opponents and a two-salvo from the impressive Egan left them 0-10 to 0-2 adrift moving into the final-quarter.

The Royals were hoping the introduction of Emma Duggan and Ali Sherlock as double substitutes might spark them back into life, but instead Dublin stretched further in front with an outstanding O'Connor goal on 47 minutes.

Meath finally enhanced their tally when Rachel Casserly kicked a point from play in the 54th minute, but even though Kate Birmingham and Duggan (free) also found the range, Caitlin Coffey was on target at the opposite end to ease Dublin into next week's provincial showdown against Kildare in Croke Park.

## Flood dreaming of a big night in Croke

By Jonny Stapleton

Bobbi Flood is dreaming of wearing Dublin blue in Croke Park.

Not that the boxing prospect wants to salute The Hill after knocking one over the bar, rather he'd like to celebrate a knockout at the home of the GAA.

The 21-year-old former underage amateur star wants on the Croke Park Katie Taylor bill if it comes to fruition – and if it does come off and he gets the call, he'll wear colours familiar to success at the venue.

"Who wouldn't want Croke Park?" Flood said. "That would be unbelievable.

"I'd have to walk out in a Dubs jersey. You'd have to, wouldn't you?"

Talk of a September mega-card headlined by Katie Taylor continues to gather momentum, and the Cabra hopes to be

part of the occasion.

"So many iconic Dublin footballers and hurlers have walked through those doors and lifted trophies there. Then little old Bobbi Flood walking through where all those legends walked – that would be crazy. "Any 21-year-old would be over the moon to walk out in a stadium like that."

As a Queensberry fighter, he may not be first on the list to fight on a Matchroom card, but the young Dub says fighters from across the promotional divide could unite for one unforgettable event.

"I do think it can happen," he said.

"To do it, they'll have to put the best Irish boxers on that card. And I am one of the best Irish boxers."

Flood moved to 2-0 with victory at the Copper Box on Saturday.

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



### ACQUISITION NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ACQUIRE LAND UNDER SECTION 45 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (AS AMENDED AND SUBSTITUTED) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2024 AND ALL OTHER ACTS THEREBY ENABLING ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE LANDS AT CASTAHEANY, DUBLIN 15

Notice is hereby given that Fingal County Council in exercise of the power conferred on them by Section 45 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, intend to acquire by Order that section of the land described hereunder.

A copy of the map referred to in the Order may be seen and inspected at the offices of Fingal County Council, Reception Desk, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X8Y2 and Fingal County Council, Reception Desk, Civic Offices, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 W638, Monday to Thursday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm, Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm (excluding Bank Holidays) from Thursday 14th May to Friday 12th June (inclusive).

The map is also available on the Fingal County Council website [www.fingal.ie/vesting-order](http://www.fingal.ie/vesting-order).

Further information may be obtained from Brian Ebbs, Senior Staff Officer, Property Services Division, Fingal County Council, County Hall, Swords, Fingal, Co. Dublin, K67 X8Y2. Telephone no. 01 890 5000, E-mail: [property.mgt@fingal.ie](mailto:property.mgt@fingal.ie).

Any person having an interest in the land to which this acquisition notice relates, may before the 12th day of June 2026 appeal to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

#### DESCRIPTION OF LAND INTENDED TO BE ACQUIRED

Open Space Lands at Castaheany, Dublin 15.

Dated this the 14th day of May 2026.

Natalie Dineen,  
Administrative Officer,  
Property Services,  
Economic, Community & Cultural Development.