

Roscommon's promotion bid rocked by COVID-19 case

Roscommon must travel to Kingspan Breffni Park, Cavan, today without up to 20 players and manager Antony Cunningham after a player on the team tested positive for COVID-19.

Roscommon captain Enda Smith will take up the mantle of player/manager for the final league game of the season.

Roscommon travelled in two buses to Armagh last weekend and everybody on one of the buses was forced to self-isolate after the positive test.

In a statement, Roscommon GAA revealed that “on receipt of instructions from the HSE, the members of the panel deemed close contacts have now been referred for testing and have begun their period of restricted movement.”

Roscommon GAA also maintain that they followed all the necessary protocols and that there was no foul play involved.

“The management and panel have at all times strictly adhered to HSE and public health guidelines,” they said.

The shake-up means that just six players remain from the team that defeated Armagh – Colm Lavin, Sean Mullooly, Tadhg O'Rourke, Cian McKeon, Niall Kilroy and Enda Smith.

Roscommon will be forced to play without talisman Conor Cox while the entire Daly contingent will leave huge gaps to fill in one of the tightest defences in the country this year.

Roscommon can still mathematically be denied promotion today but it would take a 23-point swing in points difference between themselves and Westmeath for this to happen.

It does however give other players a chance to stake their claim for the jersey with the two Murtagh brothers set to return to the inside forward line where a good display would give Cunningham a big selection conundrum for the Connacht championship.