

Roscommon defeat Armagh in division two promotion showdown

Roscommon 3-10 Armagh 0- 15

Roscommon all but guaranteed their promotion back to division one with a narrow victory over Armagh in a top of the table clash in the Athletics grounds on Saturday night.

The mantra goals win games was never more evident with two Enda Smith penalties either side of half time and a goal from Conor Daly handing Roscommon the edge over Armagh who themselves must now win away to Clare next weekend to ensure their own promotion.

Conor Cox – Roscommon’s adopted son was once again hugely influential kicking five points in a very impressive display.

For Armagh, Crossmaglen brothers Rian and Oisín O’Neill showed why they are so highly regarded across the country kicking nine points between them to keep Armagh in the contest.

Despite his stellar display, Rian O’Neill was sent off late on for a second bookable offence for a late hit on Brian Stack. The Roscommon centre back followed O’Neill soon after for a cynical foul of his own in the closing stages.

The game began at a very slow pace with Ulster like Armagh sitting every man behind the ball meaning after 30 minutes they lead by just four points to three.

Roscommon seized the initiative just before half time when Enda Smith slotted home a penalty after Conor Cox was fouled in the box.

Armagh responded well to the goal with some well taken frees from forward Rory Grugan ensuring Armagh went in at the break two points ahead.

Roscommon’s display in the second half was vastly improved and they showed everyone exactly why they are Connacht champions.

In a blistering ten minutes, Roscommon scored two more goals, Enda Smith converting his second penalty of the night while Conor Daly also added to the goal tally giving Roscommon the lead for the first time in the match.

The lead was one they would not relinquish. Despite late Armagh points from Jamie Clarke and the O’Neill brothers, Roscommon continued to add scores of their own keeping Armagh at arm’s length to ensure they came away with the crucial victory.