

The first of the Danske Bank NI U16 regional finals took place today at Lurgan Town FC. The final between Portadown College and Kilkeel High School was a closely fought contest with good football played by both teams. Portadown's Hannah Davison scored the opening goal after 10 minutes when she connected first to a well taken Emily Adamson corner. The same set-piece play worked for PC a second time when LEAH Roney rose highest to score a lovely headed goal after 20 minutes following another great delivery from Adamson on the left. Lucy McComb added a third for the College girls just before half-time. Kilkeel played their part in a good first half and came close on a few occasions.

The second half was a much calmer affair and Kilkeel certainly got stronger as they attempted to get back into the game. Midway through the second half Hannah Davison got her second, closely followed by a composed finish from second half sub-Faith Ritchie. As the game drew to a close, Indy Cunningham and Leah Houston reduced the deficit with two well taken goals as the Kilkeel girls, to their credit, ended the game strongly.

The Northern Ireland Schools Football Association (NISFA) wishes to thank Nigel Armstrong (ABC Council Development Officer) for his superb refereeing. Kilkeel High School goalkeeper, Zara Maguire, was named player of the match by Jim Brown and Gary Kennedy, the NISFA officials in attendance. Thanks also due to accompanying teachers, Julie Houston (Kilkeel HS), Judith Baird and Mark Andrews (both PC) for preparing their respective teams so well.

Portadown College will now go forward as Mid-Ulster Regional winners at the Danske Bank semi-finals day at the Dub Playing Fields (QUB) ON Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, where they will play in one of two groups in a round robin competition against other regional qualifiers from across the country to decide the two finalists to play at The National Stadium, Windsor Park, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 KO 11AM.

A big well done to everyone involved. 🍌