

Basketball

Sligo in two Connacht Finals

Sligo will contest the finals of the Connacht Junior and Juvenile Basketball Championships with Mayo in Ballinrobe on Sunday next following games played at the Gillooly Hall, Sligo, on Sunday last, when Sligo defeated Roscommon by 55-38 in the junior grade and had a walk-over in the juvenile, and Mayo beat Galway by 51-47 in junior and by 48-31 in juvenile.

Next Sunday's final will be hotly contested and at this stage, it would be very difficult to make an accurate forecast of the outcome. Sligo can win both but they will have their work cut out to do so. Last year, Sligo went through to the All-Ireland junior semi-final following a turbulent game against Mayo at Castlebar, but they failed by just one point in the juvenile.

This year, the Sligo juveniles may be tipped to win but the juniors will need plenty of luck if they hope to bring off a double.

Sligo Juniors, 55; Roscommon Juniors, 38.

Sligo had a hard fight in their junior semi-final tie with Roscommon, who played a very fast game. However, the home defence was strong enough to keep the Roscommon forwards at bay and Sligo turned over with a 26-12 lead. The visitors fought very hard in the second half but they were unable to narrow the gap.

Mayo, 5; Galway, 47.

The second junior semi-final was the most exciting game of the afternoon with Galway staging a very determined come-back in the second-half. Mayo were able to hold on to their half-time lead of 27-22 and this five-point lead saw them safely through the second half.

Mayo, 48; Galway, 31

In the only juvenile game of the championships, Mayo were never in difficulty against a fairly strong side, and fully deserved to win. They played some neat basketball and had the Galway defence in trouble from the start. Leading 25-14 at half-time, they outplayed Galway in the second period and will take some beating in the final on Sunday.