

## **Roscommon have the “edge and advantage” over Mayo**

Former Roscommon player Nigel Dineen says Roscommon have the upper hand over Mayo ahead of this weekend’s highly anticipated clash.

Roscommon face rivals and neighbors Mayo in the Connacht Championship semi-final in Dr. Hyde Park on Sunday with Galway awaiting the victors in the decider.

While the Rossie’s go into the game as underdogs, it is worth remembering that they defeated Mayo at the same stage last year and are also the ones defending the Nestor Cup.

Nigel Dineen is one man who doesn’t view the game in the same way the bookmakers do and thinks a full-strength Roscommon squad actually have the edge.

“Looking at Roscommon at the moment with all the players they have back, they seem to have a very strong panel and a good bench to pick from. I would certainly see that as an advantage,” he said.

“It’s at home and Roscommon have the little advantage of winning last year so I’d be hoping this crop of players can win on Sunday.”

Dineen’s positive attitude stems from the fact Roscommon swapped divisions with Mayo in this year’s Allianz League with Mayo relegated to Division 2 and Roscommon promoted to Division 1.

He also highlighted Roscommon’s forwards as he believes them to be the more potent of the two.

“I just believe Roscommon have a better forward unit to pick from. They have six forwards and four more they can definitely pick from,” added Dineen.

With 10-83 scored across seven league matches, Roscommon are in fact one of the highest scoring teams in the country. Although maybe it’s the Roscommon defence we should be talking about which statistically stands out as the best in the country this year with no goals conceded in their final six league games.

Dineen conceded that Mayo would be very tough opponents and there would likely be very little between the sides when David Gough blows the full-time whistle at about 3’ o’clock on Sunday.

“Look, Mayo are Mayo, they still have a lot of experienced players on their team and if a Mayo team comes in right form, they will be hard beat,” he said.

“It’s going to be a very tough game there’s no doubt about that, it will be all on the day and who performs.”

Anthony Cunningham and Roscommon fans will certainly be hoping that Dineen is right and that they do possess the advantage in the crunch encounter.

If Roscommon can defeat Mayo it means they will advance to their fifth Connacht final in five years. Galway would again be the opponents waiting in the wings in what could

