

The Oriam in Edinburgh was buzzing ahead of the game between Ireland U15 and Scotland U16. Led out by captain Síofra O'Shea, Ireland looked to push the pace early. Opening the scoring with a fantastic backdoor cut and finish, Lauryn Homan had the fans on their feet. Some excellent defensive pressure, including two steals and breakaway scores from Kara McCleane had Ireland take a 12-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Scotland's offence soon began to turn it up a notch and had Ireland on the ropes. A huge jump shot from captain O'Shea followed by two free throws from Caoimhe Masterson steadied the nerves and held the scoreline at 20-15. Despite the excellent defence from Eva Moloney and Anna Grogan, Scotland's offence kept ticking over. Banking in two three-pointers and hitting another from the corner in the last four minutes of the quarter saw Scotland take the lead and go in at half time up 27-20

With the first half nerves out of the way, the Irish team came out of the dressing room ready for a fight in the third quarter. A quick six points from Eva Moloney had Ireland rolling and some stifling interior defence from Sinead Boyle had Ireland on a quick 9-3 run. Minute by minute the girls turned the intensity up and gave Scotland nothing easy, with Kate Rochford inspiring the rest of her team on the defensive end. A step-back jump shot from Síofra O'Shea saw Ireland regain the lead 31-30 with 4.50 to play. Two huge back-to-back three pointers with a steal – which seemed to defy the laws of physics – in between from Kara McCleane saw Ireland take a 39-38 lead at the end of the third.

A huge score from Sarah Corbet and some immense defensive pressure from Laoise Walsh and Sinead Boyle had Scotland struggling to start the fourth. A 5-2 run sparked by superb play on both ends of the floor from Mollie Heaney and Kelly Sexton saw Ireland extend a lead that they would not relinquish. Some intense pressure and focus on the defensive end from Lauryn Homan and Kara McCleane saw Ireland run out winners, with a 15 point second half turnaround, on a scoreline of 57-49