



Newry City AFC 5-1 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 28th September 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-5-1)

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods 🟡 (79')
6. Michael McQuitty
20. Adam McCart 🟡 (85')
3. Lee McCune 🇮🇪 (55')
7. Thomas Robinson
11. Ciaran Dobbin
4. Samuel McIlveen
10. Jake McNeill 🇮🇪 (73')
21. Adam Gray
14. Joe Tully 🇮🇪 (45+2') 🇮🇪 (58')

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
23. Jonathon Doey
22. Matthew Henry 🇮🇪 (55')
24. Gary Donnelly 🇮🇪 (73')
9. Fra Nolan 🇮🇪 (58')

Newry City AFC: Coleman, King, Boyle, McCann, Grant, McCabe, Hughes, McGovern, Moan, McKeown, Moller Nielsen. Subs: Healy, Montgomery, Foley, Lennon, Lavery.

Comrades' dreadful away form continued with a comprehensive defeat at Newry. Manager Paul Harbinson was forced into a couple of changes to the side which had defeated Knockbreda the previous Saturday. Both Kyle Crawford and Dariusz Adamczyk had been unable to train during the week, so in came Michael McQuitty and Samuel McIlveen.

The opening stages of the game was evenly contested, but eventually it was the home side who began to threaten. The first shot on goal came in the 18th minute when a sloppy ball played out of defence allowed Hughes to get in a shot from the left side of the box, which Ben McCauley had to save at the near post.

In the 20th minute Newry caused danger in the box when a corner played in was headed down into a dangerous area by Moller Nielsen and McCabe's resulting effort from 6 yards was deflected just over the bar.

A minute later the hosts hit the front. A straight ball down the middle set McGovern free and he outpaced the covering Comrades defenders before dinking the ball over the advancing 'keeper from just outside the box.

On 23 minutes Comrades came close to an equaliser when a free-kick fired in from 20 yards by Joe Tully forced an awkward save from Coleman, who managed to spoon the ball up from the goal-line and onto the bar and then was lucky to collect it as it dropped back down.

A minute later Newry scored a second goal. A high ball played forward was not dealt with by the Comrades defence and McCabe collected the ball before trying a shot from 19 yards which ended up taking a huge deflection off Curtis Woods and spinning up over Ben McCauley and under the bar.

Comrades still looked capable of creating something at the other end and in the 36th minute they came close when Samuel McIlveen's powerfully struck half volley from 16 yards looked goalbound, only to be kept out by a great save from Coleman.

The visitors' defensive woes continued with a third goal conceded in the 41st minute. A low ball was played in from the right side of the box and Ben McCauley could only parry it out to Hughes, who had the easy task of tapping the ball home from close range.

Two minutes into first half injury-time Comrades grabbed a lifeline when they pulled a goal back. A Curtis Wood cross from the right found the head of Joe Tully, who powered a fine finish into the corner of the net from 6 yards.

The early part of the second half saw Comrades look to get back into the game, but despite some promising build up play they couldn't find the crucial final ball.

At the other end the hosts still looked capable of scoring more goals. In the 63rd minute a quick counter-attack saw Foley strike the far post with a shot from the left side of the box before McCabe slid in to turn the rebound over the bar from inside the 6-yard box.

A minute later Comrades came close when Thomas Robinson flashed a shot just wide of the far post from the right side of the box.

The visiting supporters still thought their side could possibly get something from the game, but their hopes were ended in the 80th minute when Newry scored a fourth goal. A through ball set McGovern free in the box, where he was brought down by a tackle from behind by Curtis Woods. The referee pointed to the spot and Hughes stepped up to convert the penalty.

In the 87th minute the visitors' misery was completed when the home side scored again. They were able to waltz too easily through a defence claiming for offside and the ball was played across to McCabe who had the simple task of slotting home from close range.