



Ballyclare Comrades 1-1 Dergview

Saturday 30th November 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Beechview Developments

Ball Sponsor: Wilson Weir & Co – Independent Financial Adviser

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-1-4-1)

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods
23. Jonathon Doey
15. Jordan Malone 🟦 (56')
21. Adam Gray
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟡 (90+3')
7. Thomas Robinson 🟡 (69')
11. Ciaran Dobbin
10. Jake McNeill 🟡 (90+2')
9. Fra Nolan
26. Lukasz Adamczyk

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
6. Michael McQuitty
20. Adam McCart
18. Kevin Hagan
14. Joe Tully 🟢 (69')

Dergview: Alan Buchanan, Harpur, Falconer, McNulty, McKeown, Burns, Callaghan, Doherty, McGlynn, Wallace, A Sproule. Subs: McElroy, Adam Buchanan, McConnell, Smith, I Sproule.

Comrades had to be content with a draw at home to Dergview in a game where they rarely reached anywhere near their best form.

For this match manager Paul Harbinson was faced with a number of absentees - JB Dobbin (suspension), Gary Donnelly (illness) and Matthew Henry and Lee McCune (injury). In addition, striker Joe Tully was only fit enough for a place on the bench after a midweek injury in training. Into the starting line-up came Curtis Woods, Jake McNeill Fra Nolan and Lukasz Adamczyk.

After a scrappy start the first chance of the game fell to the hosts on 14 minutes. A free kick was won wide on the left and from it Fra Nolan swung the ball into the box where Lukasz Adamczyk was there unmarked to get his head to the ball. However his effort from 9 yards went wide of the target. Five minutes later the visitors, who had begun to look threatening, took the lead. A free kick was played into the box by Doherty and McNulty rose highest 6 yards out to guide a header into the net. Buoyed by this goal Dergview began to get on top, winning most 50/50 challenges and outmuscling an out of sorts home side. Comrades struggled to create anything, with misplaced passes hampering their play. It took a piece of individual enterprise from Adam Gray on 34 minutes to threaten the Dergview defence when he picked up on a loose ball played out from the back by the visitors and advanced to strike a shot from just outside the box, which was deflected just wide of the goal. At the other end, in the 39th minute, McGlynn sent a well struck long range effort dipping narrowly over the bar. On 42 minutes Comrades had a half chance when good work from Ciaran Dobbin set up Lukasz Adamczyk to strike from 16 yards, but his effort lacked the power to trouble 'keeper Buchanan. The first effort of the second half came from the home side in the 50th minute, when Thomas Robinson made space for a shot from the edge of the box, but it went straight at the keeper. A minute later Ben McCauley had to fly across his goal to make a good save to deny Sproule who had sent in a well struck shot from outside the box. The flurry of action continued on 52 minutes when Jake McNeill fired in a crisp shot from the edge of the box after good set up play by Fra Nolan. However Buchanan was well placed to save. On 56 minutes Comrades got reward for their improved start to the second half with an equaliser. A corner saw the ball break to Jordan Malone 13 yards out and he turned to fire a shot through the crowded box and into the net. The visitors reacted well to this setback and came close to regaining the lead in the 59th minute when Wallace ran across the box before shooting just past the far post from 8 yards. Then, two minutes later, McGlynn sent a low shot just wide from 20 yards. Comrades continued to press forward and on 71 minutes Ciaran Dobbin shot just over from 20 yards. Whilst five minutes later substitute Joe Tully sent a free kick just wide from 22 yards. As the game drew to its close Comrades seemed to run out of ideas and it was the visitors who looked the more likely to get a winner. Only solid defending from the home side kept them ay bay. The only time the hosts threatened late on was in the 86th minute, when Jake McNeill got in a decent strike from the edge of the box, but again the effort was too close to the keeper.