



Ballyclare Comrades 3-2 Queen's University

Saturday 3rd August 2019 – NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Fleming & Cuthbert Funeral Directors

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Ballyclare Comrades team (4-3-3)

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods
5. Kyle Crawford
20. Adam McCart 🏴 (51')
22. Matthew Henry
15. Jordan Malone 🏴 (57')
24. Gary Donnelly
10. Jake McNeill 🏴 (68')
21. Kyle Beggs 🏴 (90+2')
9. Fra Nolan 🟡 (19')
11. Ciaran Dobbin

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
6. Michael McQuitty 🟢 (51')
4. Samuel McIlveen
8. JB Dobbin 🟢 (57')
14. Joe Tully 🟢 (68') 🏴 (84') 🏴 (90')

Queen's University: Doherty, Corry, Young, McManus, Robinson, Bonnes, Middleton, Mulgrew, Traynor, McKenna, Hughes. Subs: O'Hare, Delaney, McIlroy, Torrens, Calvert.

Comrades grabbed a victory in their opening league game, with a dramatic comeback late in the game rescuing them, after they had looked set for a disappointing defeat.

With no fewer than eight players in the starting line-up making their competitive debuts for the club, it was a testament to the major changes which have taken place since the end of last season.

However, it was the newly promoted visitors who started the game the strongest, looking that bit sharper than the home side. In the 21st minute Queen's got their

reward with the opening goal. It came from a superb effort hit from outside the box by McKenna, which was perfectly placed into the top far corner of the net.

This woke Comrades up and their play improved for a period. In the 25th minute they created a great chance to equalise, when Ciaran Dobbin, who looked the team's main threat in the first half, skinned a defender on the left side of the box and drilled the ball across the goal. Kyle Beggs arrived and looked set to score, but the ball came to him at an awkward height and he couldn't find the target.

Three minutes later the home side forced a good save from Doherty. Adam McCart got in a header from 8 yards, after Ciaran Dobbin had recycled the ball from a corner. However, the Queen's 'keeper managed to dive acrobatically to turn the ball wide.

On 45 minutes slackness at the back from Comrades saw the ball given away and good work from Bonnes and Traynor set up Hughes for a simple chance which he converted from close range.

For most of the second half it didn't seem very likely that the home side would get back into the game as they failed to trouble the visiting 'keeper. Indeed, Queen's looked as likely to score again. On 49 minutes Ben McCauley had to make smart save after McKenna sent a good effort in from just outside the box.

The game looked to be drifting to a very disappointing conclusion for Comrades, but the final minutes were to see a thrilling comeback.

Things started to change in the 84th minute, when 'keeper Doherty scuffed a clearance from a back pass straight to substitute Joe Tuly, who made no mistake, hitting the ball back first-time into the unguarded net from 16 yards.

Now, the visitor's defence, which had been so assured, began to look jittery, whilst Comrades sniffed the chance of getting something from the game.

On 90 minutes, more drama when Kyle Beggs surged into the box and was brought down by a challenge. The referee pointed to the spot and Joe Tully stepped up to coolly convert, levelling the scores.

Two minutes later, the home supporters were delirious when their side scored what was to be the winner. Fra Nolan dug out a cross from the by-line and sent the ball to the far post, where Kyle Beggs was there to nod home.