



Loughgall 1-4 Ballyclare Comrades

Saturday 26th October 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-5-1)

1. Ben McCauley
22. Matthew Henry
23. Jonathon Doey
15. Jordan Malone
3. Lee McCune
7. Thomas Robinson ⚽ (73')
24. Gary Donnelly 🚩 (75')
8. JB Dobbin
11. Ciaran Dobbin 🚩 (79')
9. Fra Nolan ⚽ (48') 🚩 (69')
14. Joe Tully ⚽ (35') 🟡 (66')

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
18. Kevin Hagan
4. Samuel McIlveen 🟢 (75')
10. Jake McNeill 🟢 (79') ⚽ (87')
26. Lukasz Adamczyk 🟢 (69')

Loughgall: Buchanan, Kerr, Rea, Brennan, Upton, Ferguson, Malone, McCullough, Ferris, Gibson, Campbell. Subs: Smith, Hoey, Gallagher, Copeland, Lyttle.

Comrades gained their first away win of the season and did so in style with a 4-1 demolition of table-toppers Loughgall.

Hoping to continue a run of three unbeaten games, manager Paul Harbinson only made one change to his starting line-up; Adam Gray was unavailable, so in came Fra Nolan.

The game started in end to end fashion with both sides trying to get an early advantage. The first strike on goal came from Comrades in the 12th minute, when Gary Donnelly broke into the box and laid the ball off to Joe Tully, but his resulting effort from an angle 8 yards out was turned wide by 'keeper Buchanan at the near post.

At the other end Loughgall should have taken the lead in the 16th minute when Rea produced a great surge into the box before playing the ball across the goal where McCullough looked set to tap home at the far post, but he fluffed his lines striking the post.

On 20 minutes the visitors were unlucky when Joanthon Doey saw his powerful 7-yard header from a corner strike the bar. The ball bounced down just in front of the line but Comrades just couldn't bundle it into the net.

The hosts had a chance in the 34th minute when a good move down the left ended with Campbell getting in a strike from the edge of the box which went just wide. A minute later the first goal came and it was Comrades who got it. Thomas Robinson did very well to drive in from the right and deliver the ball into the 6-yard box where Joe Tully was there to finish from close range.

On 39 minute Campbell cut in from the left for the hosts, after getting on the end of a good long ball, and fired in a shot from just inside the box, however his effort struck the side-netting.

Comrades went in at half-time with a narrow lead, but they soon extended it with a goal three minutes into the second half. Ciaran Dobbin ran at the home defence and made space for a shot from 14 yards which Buchanan saved, but Fra Nolan arrived to get to the loose ball just before a defender and knocked it inside the post from 3 yards out.

Two minutes later the visitors had another chance when Gary Donnelly broke through the middle, but his shot from the edge of the box was saved by the well positioned 'keeper.

Despite the home side's efforts to claw their way back into the match Comrades held firm, defending very well and limiting Loughgall's sights at goal. Indeed it looked as likely that the lead would be increased and so it was in the 73rd minute when Thomas Robinson tricked his way into the box and fired in a shot from 15 yards which proved too strong for the 'keeper and found the far corner of the net.

In the 85th minute Loughgall grabbed a goal back when Campbell got on the end of a ball played across the box and fired home from 6 yards.

Any hopes that the home supporters had of a comeback to rival that their team had produced at Dixon Park earlier in the season were quickly snuffed out. In the 87th minute substitute Jake McNeill turned a defender beautifully and advanced into the box before coolly knocking the ball over the diving 'keeper from 7 yards out to complete the scoring.