



Ballyclare Comrades 0-1 Portadown

Friday 15th November 2019 – Bluefin NIFL Championship

Match Sponsor: Curtis Cars, Newtownabbey

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Ballyclare Comrades team (4-2-3-1)

1. Ben McCauley
22. Matthew Henry 🚩 (78')
23. Jonathon Doey 🟡 (90')
15. Jordan Malone 🟡 (40')
3. Lee McCune 🚩 (78')
24. Gary Donnelly
4. Samuel Mcllveen
7. Thomas Robinson
11. Ciaran Dobbin
9. Adam Gray
14. Joe Tully

Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
20. Adam McCart
10. Jake McNeill 🟢 (78') 🟡 (80')
9. Fra Nolan
26. Lukasz Adamczyk 🟢 (78')

Portadown: Edwards, Hall, Crane, Finnegan, McKenna, Salley, McGrandles, Wilson, McNally, Teggart, Bonis. Subs: Bradley, Duke, Glackin, Tipton, McCullough.

Comrades fell to a narrow defeat against league leaders Portadown in a closely fought game under the lights at Dixon Park
For this match manager Paul Harbinson had to replace the suspended JB Dobbin in midfield; Samuel Mcllveen coming in as a natural replacement. Adam Gray also replaced Fra Nolan in the starting line-up.

The visitors started on the front foot and on 11 minutes the first chance of the game fell to them. Following a free kick played into the box, the ball broke to Bonis who saw his shot blocked. From the resulting corner Finnegan's goal bound header was blocked in front of the line and the ball eventually scrambled clear.

On 14 minutes the hosts had their first strike on goal. From a corner the ball was only cleared out to Ciaran Dobbin just outside the box and he fired an effort back on goal, but Edwards was in a good position to save with ease.

In the 18th minute another free kick into the Comrades box caused mayhem and it looked like the ball was going to find its way into the net but somehow it was cleared away for a corner.

Comrades had a decent effort on 28 minutes. Thomas Robinson cut in from the right to hit a well struck shot from 17 yards which Edwards was again well positioned to save.

Two minutes later at the other end a high ball into the box caused danger allowing Wilson to get in a strike which forced a decent save from Ben McCauley.

In the 40th minute Portadown hit the front. A high ball saw a corner conceded, with Comrades defenders claiming there had been a push by Ports player. From the corner played in by McKenna the ball was headed in by McGrandles who rise highest 7 yards out.

The home side started the second half strongly. In the 50th minute a mazy run across the box by Thomas Robinson ended with him laying the ball off to Ciaran Dobbin who had the chance to shoot from 9 yards, but his resulting effort lacked the power to trouble the 'keeper.

Comrades had another chance two minutes later. Robinson was again the creator setting up Gary Donnelly for a shot from 15 yards out, but he skewed his first-time effort over the bar.

The home side continued to press for an equaliser throughout the second half, but the resolute Portadown defence was a hard nut to crack and clear-cut chances weren't created. At the other end the visitors rarely threatened to increase their lead as Comrades defence also held firm.

On 79 minute the home side did have a half chance when a ball played across the box deflected towards substitute Lukasz Adamczyk in a position inside the 6-yard box where if he had got the right touch it would surely have been a goal. However, the striker was wrong-footed and couldn't get the required connection, the ball going wide of the post.

In the end Comrades just couldn't do enough going forward to hurt the visitors who went home with three hard-earned points.