



## Portadown 5-0 Ballyclare Comrades

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – NIFL Championship

### Ballyclare Comrades team (4-3-3)

1. Ben McCauley
2. Curtis Woods
6. Michael McQuitty
5. Kyle Crawford 🟡 (52')
3. Matthew Henry
12. Gary Donnelly
4. Samuel McIlveen 🇮🇷 (61')
8. JB Dobbin 🟡 (37') 🇮🇷 (61')
7. Kyle Beggs
9. Fra Nolan 🇮🇷 (81')
14. Joe Tully

### Substitutes:

19. Tom Hegan
23. Jonathon Doey
15. Jordan Malone 🇮🇷 (81')
10. Jake McNeill 🇮🇷 (61')
16. Jamie Willighan 🇮🇷 (61')

**Portadown:** Edwards, Hall, Crane, Finnegan, McNally, Carmichael, Teggart, Wilson, Lavery, Salley, Duke. Subs: McCallum, Bradley, McKenna, Glackin, Tipton.

After winning their opening league game three days earlier, Comrades came back down to earth with a crash with a heavy defeat at Portadown.

For this match manager Stephen Hughes made four changes to the starting line-up. Saturday's man of the match Ciaran Dobbin was injured, as was Adam McCart, whilst Jake McNeill and Jordan Malone dropped to the bench. In came Michael McQuitty, JB Dobbin, Samuel McIlveen and Joe Tully.

The game started in encouraging fashion for Comrades, as until the first goal went in they had plenty of the ball and looked enterprising going forward. However, this was to be very much a false dawn and the rest of the game was to see the home side largely in complete control.

The rot set in for Comrades in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute when the home side took the lead. Crane, who was at Dixon Park last season, got too much space on the left to play the ball across the box where Duke was there to finish from 4 yards out.

Comrades initially reacted well to this setback and on 24 minutes they came close when Kyle Beggs, who was the one bright spot from a miserable evening, curled a shot just over the bar from the edge of the box after a good move.

Seconds later however Portadown doubled their lead. This time it came from a ball played in from the right by Carmichael, which was met by a first-time effort from Lavery which flew into the roof of the net from 7 yards.

Two minutes later it was almost 3-0, when the Duke struck the post with a shot from 6 yards inside a crowded box.

The home side continued to dominate and Comrades struggled to keep them at bay. In the 41<sup>st</sup> minute Ben McCauley had to make a decent save after Crane got space in the box to hit an effort from 12 yards.

The second half brought little respite for the visitors and the ball was in their half for most of the time. However, there was a sniff of a chance on 52 minutes when Michael McQuitty got in a header from 8 yards from a deep Matthew Henry cross, but Edwards was able to save fairly comfortably.

A minute later Portadown increased their lead and effectively ended the game as a contest when Duke got his head to a free-kick played into the box by Lavery and finished with ease from close range.

On 71 minutes the lively Kyle Beggs forced a save from Edwards with a low drive from just outside the box, which the 'keeper had to turn wide.

The home side always looked a danger when the ball was played into the box and on 74 minutes they scored when Teggart played the ball back into the box after a corner had been cleared and Finnegan got free to head in off the post from 6 yards.

The agony continued for Comrades and soon it was 5-0. On 77 minutes Duke stepped up to take a free-kick from 25 yards and thumped an unstoppable effort into the top corner of the net for his hat-trick.

The home side didn't let up. On 85 minutes Ben McCauley had to make a good save with his legs after Lavery broke through and looked set to score.

Although outplayed on the night, Comrades continued to try for some consolation from the game. In the 86<sup>th</sup> minute Kyle Beggs curled a fine effort from the edge of the box, which Edwards did well to tip over the bar.

The home side came close to a sixth goal two minutes into injury-time, when a curling effort from 18 yards struck by Glackin came back off the post.

A minute later Comrades had a chance of a consolation goal when Matthew Henry struck an effort through a crowded box, which Edwards had to parry away.