



Ballyclare Comrades 5-1 Dergview

Friday 30th December 2016 – NIFL Championship

Match and Ball Sponsor: Ballyclare Comrades Supporters Club

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

1. Paddy Flood
2. Curtis Woods
5. Jason Johnston
23. Dean Youle 🟦 (51')
3. Mark Shannon
4. Corey McMullan 🟦 (85')
8. JB Dobbin
11. Thomas Robinson 🟦 (35') 🟦 (59')
7. Gary Brown 🟢🔴 (52')
10. Adam Gray 🟢🔴 (87')
9. Chris Trussell 🟦 (90+2')

Substitutes:

12. Michael O'Hanlon 🟢🔴 (52')
14. Adam McCart
15. Michael Haskins
16. Kyle McCauley
17. Joel Haggan 🟢🔴 (87')

Dergview: A Buchanan, G Porter, Falconer, Robinson, M Buchanan, Burns, McManus, Ballard, Arkinson, Campbell, Lecky. Subs: Wallace, Lynch, S Porter, Friel-Curran.

Comrades followed up their Boxing Day derby victory at Larne, with a scintillating win over Dergview under the lights of Dixon Park.

For this match manager Stephen Hughes could welcome back Dean Youle and Michael O'Hanlon from suspension. Youle came back in at centre back, replacing Adam McCart. O'Hanlon had to be content with a spot on the bench.

Inside the first minute, Thomas Robinson showed his intent by cutting inside from the right and getting in a shot from a tight angle 8 yards out, which was turned by for a corner off a defender's leg.

Comrades had looked the brighter in the early stages, but the visitors then began to get into the game more. In the 15th minute a ball played in from the left edge of the box found Campbell, who turned and shot from 6 yards, only to be denied by a fine save from Paddy Flood.

On 25 minutes Chris Trussell thought he had given his side the lead, when he finished well from just inside the box. However, his effort was ruled out for offside, despite

claims that the ball had come off a Dergview defender before reaching the Comrades striker.

The visitors had a chance on 28 minutes, when Campbell broke into the box before striking an effort from 16 yards, which forced a smart save from 'keeper Flood.

The opening goal came in the 35th minute. Thomas Robinson cut into the box and hit a fine low shot wide of the unsighted 'keeper and inside the far post from 17 yards.

The sides went in at half-time, with game still finely balanced, but Comrades came out and blew their opponents away with a dynamic second half performance.

They increased the lead in the 51st minute, when Dean Youle headed in from 3 yards, after getting on the end of a beautifully flighted Mark Shannon free-kick, played in from wide on the left.

Comrades weren't content to sit on their two-goal advantage and continued to press forward. In the 57th minute they tested Dergview 'keeper Buchanan with a shot from the edge of the box hit by Adam Gray, but the effort took a deflection, which took some sting from it and made the save easier than it might have been.

Two minutes later however there was nothing Buchanan could do to prevent a third Comrades goal. Substitute Michael O'Hanlon did well to win the ball on the halfway line and play in Thomas Robinson, who eluded a tackle on the edge of the box before advancing and smashing the ball into the back of the net from 13 yards.

The visitors gave themselves hope of a comeback when they pulled a goal back on 72 minutes. A free-kick into the box broke to Aaron Arkinson, who swept the ball home from 4 yards.

Then, ten minutes later, Paddy Flood had to produce a good save to turn a 20-yard free-kick from Falconer wide of the post.

On 85 minutes, a bizarre goal from Corey McMullan restored the lead to three. It came when he firmly blocked a counter-attack and the ball flew back over the head of the stranded 'keeper from 40 yards out.

A minute later, Thomas Robinson might have got his hat-trick. He broke forward into the Dergview half before playing a through ball to Michael O'Hanlon. The 'keeper rushed from his box to just get to the ball first, but his clearance broke to Robinson, who fired the ball back towards the unguarded net from 37 yards, but his effort went just wide of the target,

Two minutes into injury-time Comrades added a fifth goal, when Chris Trussell surged to the corner of the 6-yard box before firing the ball powerfully in at the near post.