

Newington Reserves 1-5 Ballyclare Comrades U20

Saturday 11th March 2017 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Ballyclare Comrades U20s returned to the Championship Development League North summit with a comprehensive win against Newington Reserves.

Doubles by Reece Gilmour and Scott Gault underpinned the 5-1 win at Valley Leisure Centre, where Joel Haggan also got his name on the scorecard.

Although Kingsley Burrows' lads had the major share of possession in the first half they needed a Gilmour strike just before half time to turn around level, after the visitors had forged ahead in the opening moments.

Ross McKnight in the home goal had a much easier time than his opposite number, who twice denied Mark Shannon from the senior side, who was getting some valuable game time after having been sidelined for two months.

Moving skipper Scott Gault from full back to midfield sparked his side in to life, and in the 50th minute Gault made it 2-1 when he netted from close range after Gilmour's initial effort had been saved.

Now playing with renewed confidence the Wee Reds increased their lead when Gilmour threaded the ball through for Haggan to tap in to the net.

The impressive Gilmour doubled his personal tally when he latched to a long ball over the top, and confidently rounded the keeper, and near the end Gault got his second with a header after a fine link-up involving substitute Sam Lilburn and Adam McCauley.

Reflecting on the win manager Burrows said, "In the first half our normal rhythm was missing, the passing was poor and generally it was a very untidy performance. The second half performance was entirely different and we took complete control, when skipper Scott Gault led from the front after moving to midfield," he added.

Man of the Match: Scott Gault.

Comrades Reserves: McKnight; Gault (C), Ervine, Chalmers, Fenton; Clarke, Haggan; K Robinson, McIlwaine, Shannon, Gilmour. Subs: McAbery, Lilburn, A McCauley.