

Ballyclare Comrades U20 4-1 Institute Reserves

Tuesday 14th March 2017 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Double strikes by Kevin Lynch and Scott Cummings ensured that Ballyclare Comrades U20s swept aside their main title rivals Institute Reserves, and cemented their top spot in the Championship Development League North table.

In the midweek fixture at Dixon Park, Kingsley Burrows' lads after scoring first, turned round all square at 1-1, but then added three unanswered goals to finish comprehensive 4-1 winners.

Lynch opened the scoring in the 16th minute with a back post header, following a fine build-up involving Ross Clarke and Kyle McCauley, and for a time Comrades were on top. Scoring chances were created for Kyle Robinson and Reece Gilmour, but the keeper came to the rescue.

On the half hour Inst drew level with a close range tap in, after Ross McKnight had brilliantly saved the initial effort, so the first forty-five minutes ended with honours even.

A Burrows tactical switch at half time proved effective, with striker Lynch now operating in the number ten slot, while Cummings moved up top.

Almost immediately the Wee Reds regained the lead, when Gilmour and Cummings combined to set it up for Lynch to double his tally.

In the 70th minute Cummings practically sealed the points when he chased down a ball over the top, and tucked the ball under the keeper.

With substitute Ryan McIlwaine prominent in midfield Comrades continued to dominate, and seven minutes from time Cummings completed the scoring when he got on to the end of a McIlwaine cross.

The Man of the Watch award went to keeper Ross McKnight, who in addition to making one stunning save in the first half, organised his defence effectively.

"The 1-1 scoreline at half time was just about right," stated Burrows. "We were on top during the first quarter, but they bossed the second. However in the second half with Kevin Lynch directing operations at number ten we took control and were worthy winners. So we go into the split in pole position, but we then face four difficult games, and Institute with games in hand pose a title threat," he added.

U20s: McKnight; K McCauley, Irvine, Chalmers, Fenton; Haggan, Clarke; Robinson, Cummings, Gilmour; Lynch. Subs: McAbery, Lilburn, A McCauley.