

Institute Reserves 5-0 Ballyclare Comrades U20

Wednesday 19th April 2017 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Ballyclare U20's travelled up to Institute for their last game of the season, knowing that only an 11-0 victory could secure them the league title, possible, but highly unlikely. This was made even more improbable when Institute decided to field five 1st teamers to help them secure their title. Ballyclare started the better team in the opening 20 minutes and had a few chances, the best coming from Luke Fenton with an absolute rasper from the edge of the box that was met with fingertips to deny him the opening goal. However, it was Institute that opened the scoring with an own goal, deflecting off Kyle McCauley. The 2nd goal followed shortly after when a straight long ball caught the two central defenders for Ballyclare napping and the Institute forward ran onto it to net past a helpless Ross McKnight. Half time finished with Ballyclare young guns trailing by 2 goals to nil, unfortunately this was just too much to claw back for the young boys, who to be fair came out the 2nd half and tried to play the game in the right way, but superior defending from very good senior players in the Institute team just saw the ball coming back into Ballyclare's half with relative ease and putting the Ballyclare defence under immense pressure, pressure which turned into three goals and ensuring that Ballyclare ended their season on a whimper.

Squad:

Ross McKnight

Scott Gault

Kyle McCauley

Graham Ervine

Luke Fenton

Ross Clarke

Joel Haggan

Michael Haskins

Reece Gilmour

Ryan McIlwaine

Scott Cummings

Kingsley Burrows' season overview:

To end the season the way we did was very disappointing, how we capitulated so badly is a mystery, but to focus on the last 3 games and let that dictate what type of season we had would be very unfair. We've been involved in some incredible games and the players have put in some inspiring performances throughout the season. We were in the title hunt until the 2nd last league game and enjoyed a run to the quarter finals of the Junior Shield. An achievement I probably would have taken at the beginning of the season, considering we had to start from scratch amalgamating last year's u17's, a few of the u19's and a handful of last year's reserves into a team that could gel and perform the way they have. I've thoroughly enjoyed being back at Ballyclare this season and enjoyed working with the young talent at the club. I just hope that they've learnt that the performance must always outweigh the score, because the score, 9 times out of 10, is a result of the performance. We still have the George Wilson Cup to look forward to which starts this Tuesday against Lurgan Celtic away,

kick off at 7pm.