

Ballyclare Comrades U20 1-0 PSNI Olympic

Saturday 17th December 2016 – NIFL Development League North

In the Championship Development League North match of the day featuring Ballyclare Comrades Reserves and PSNI Olympic, a solitary strike by Reece Gilmour settled the points in Ballyclare's favour.

The teams went in to this clash at Dixon Park locked on 24 points at the top of the table, so Kingsley Burrows' lads now sit proudly at the summit going in to the second round of fixtures.

Gilmour's 58th minute strike ensured that the Reds completed a league double against the policemen, having won the early season clash at Newforge 3-1.

With Jack Chalmers and top scorer Scott Cummings suspended, Burrows had to reshuffle the pack, with Gilmour taking over up top as the lone striker.

The Wee Reds had the upper-hand during the first half but failed to put away scoring chances. A Gilmour header flashed over the bar, and later the same player was thwarted by the keeper who fearlessly smothered the ball at the striker's feet.

Approaching the interval Kyle Robinson and Kyle McCauley also went close, while Ross McKnight at the opposite end was having it relatively quiet.

The tables were turned after the interval when the coppers had the major share of possession, but Gilmour got the only goal of the game when his neat first touch inside the box created space for him to stab the ball in to the net from close range.

Comrades were mainly restricted to counter-attacks, but with Graham Ervine and Kyle McCauley in commanding form at the heart of the defence, McKnight recorded his third clean sheet of the season.

"We played very well in the first half when the lads sprayed the ball around effectively, and we should have turned round several goals to the good," stated Burrows. "Although the policemen had the better of exchanges after the interval thankfully Reece Gilmour got the all important strike that keeps us top of the table," he added.

The man of the Match accolade was shared by defender Graham Ervine and midfielder Joel Haggan.

Comrades Reserves: McKnight; Gault, Irvine, K McCauley, Fenton; Haskins, Haggan, Clarke, Robinson McIlwaine; Gilmour. Subs: A McCauley, McAbery.