

Knockbreda Reserves 3-3 Ballyclare Comrades U20

Saturday 4th March 2017 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Ballyclare Comrades U20s seemed on course to complete a Championship Development League North win against Knockbreda Reserves, until the east Belfast side salvaged a point with an added time equaliser.

Strikes by Adam McCauley, Reece Gilmour and Scott Gault had Kingsley Burrows lads leading 3-2 at Breda Park, but the city lads had the final say with a 94th minute point saving leveller.

In this top against bottom clash full back Adam McCauley got the visitors off to a good start, when he blasted the ball in to the roof of the net from twenty-five yards, but soon Michael Haskins limped off with an ankle injury to be replaced by Luke McAbery.

While Joel Haggan was on the sidelines having a nose-bleed attended to the home side grabbed an equaliser, after goalkeeper Ross McKnight lost his footing as he advanced off his line.

The Wee Reds continued to have the better of exchanges, but the nearest they came to scoring was a Luke Fenton headed that rebounded off the post.

During the third quarter Gilmour regained the lead from the penalty spot after he had been fouled in the box, but the Breda lads restored parity when possession was lost in midfield.

In the 89th minute skipper Gault seemed to have secured the three points, when he put his side ahead for the third time, but in the 4th minute of added time Graham Ervine conceded an unfortunate own goal, when his attempted headed clearance looped over McKnight.

“Overall it was a disappointing performance,” stated Burrows. “Against the bottom team we should have collected the points, but we surrendered possession too often. So we remain in second spot in the table behind Dundela Youth, but we have three games in hand,” he added.

Comrades Reserves: McKnight; A McCauley, Ervine, Gault (C), Fenton; Clarke, Haggan; Lilburn, McIlwaine, Haskins; Gilmour. Subs: McAbery, Nesbitt.