

Institute Reserves 4-2 Ballyclare Comrades U20

Saturday 27th January 2018 – NIFL Development League North

Report courtesy of the Newtownabbey Times

Ballyclare Comrades Reserves never recovered from a sloppy first half performance that resulted them trailing 4-1 at the interval, before finishing on the wrong end of a 4-2 scoreline against league leaders Institute Reserves.

Kingsley Burrows' lads went in to this Championship Development League North fixture knowing that they really had to get a result to keep their title hopes alive, but an early injury to left back Luke Fenton upset their plans.

After only three minutes the promising defender limped off with a hamstring problem, and the subsequent reshuffle handed the initiative to the hosts, who opened the scoring almost immediately.

This one was cancelled out by Reece Gilmour who had a simple tap in, after Sam Lilburn had created the opening with a fine surge in to the box.

During the second quarter Institute took control and fired in three goals to turn around three up.

For the second half Burrows opted for a 3-5-2 formation, and this resulted in the Wee Reds dominating, but their only goal was scored by Gilmour, when he doubled his tally from a Thomas Campbell cross.

Ballyclare keeper Ewan McGrath was having a much easier time than his opposite number, who pulled off two brilliant saves to thwart Campbell and Gilmour.

Man of the Match: Joel Haggan, central midfielder.

Commenting coach Burrows said, "Following the Luke Fenton early injury we lost our shape, and Institute took full advantage to turn around three up. We reorganised during the break and controlled the second half, but their keeper was in top form and restricted us to a second goal," he added.

Comrades Reserves: McGrath, Cooper, Chalmers, Ervine, Fenton, Neilly, Hagan, Clarke, Lilburn, Coulter, Gilmour. Subs: McCabery, Campbell, McCauley, Gault.