



Ballyclare Comrades 0-4 Larne

Saturday 29th September 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

Ballyclare Comrades team (4-1-4-1)

- 19. Kyle Rowe
- 6. Michael McQuitty 🟡 (68')
- 5. Adam Wright 🟡 (72')
- 23. Dean Youle
- 11. Adam Gray 🟡 (69')
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 7. Joe McWilliams
- 10. Eoin Kane
- 12. Jason Johnston
- 17. Thomas Robinson 🟡 (76')
- 16. Jamie Willighan

Substitutes:

- 20. Taylor Kirk
- 21. Scott Gault
- 4. Samuel McIlveen
- 24. Gary Donnelly 🟢 (69')
- 14. Joe Tully 🟢 (76')

Larne: Devlin, Sule, Finnegan, Kelly, Scullion, Donnelly, Tilney, Hassin, McNally, Cosgrove, Hughes. Subs: Dougherty, McEleney, Stewart, McDaid, Stuart.

Comrades succumbed to a second half onslaught from big spending league favourites Larne to lose their third successive Championship game.

The injury problems continued for manager Stephen Hughes, with JB Dobbin and Gary Brown still out, now joined by new absentee Curtis Woods. On a more positive note, Gary Donnelly recovered to be fit enough for a place on the bench.

The home side had a sniff of a chance inside three minutes, when Joe McWilliams' ball in from the left side of the box was met by the arriving Jason Johnston, but he couldn't get the right connection from 6 yards to seriously trouble the 'keeper.

As the play settled into a pattern, Larne had the bulk of possession, the home side worked hard to keep them at bay. Chances were at a premium, but in the 29th minute, the visitors came close, when a cross to the back post was met by Cosgrove, who headed into the side-netting.

At the other end opportunities were very limited for the home side, but they went in at half-time on level terms and very much in the game.

The second half started brightly enough for Comrades, as they looked to show more going forward. However, in the 53rd minute they were rocked by a superb goal from surely the best player in the Championship, Marty Donnelly, who beautifully cushioned a ball played into the box over the head of a defender, before coolly lobbing it over the 'keeper.

This goal opened the floodgates and six minutes later the visitors got a second, Donnelly running onto a through ball, rounding the keeper and finishing with ease. On 64 minutes the home side had a great chance to get right back into the game, when the ball was played back across the box after a corner and fell to Adam Wright, but 5 yards out he couldn't get enough power in his shot to beat Devlin, who was able to make a smart save.

In the 68th minute the points were virtually secured by Larne when they scored from the penalty spot. Michael McQuitty tripped Marty Donnelly inside the box and Donnelly picked himself up to convert from the spot and get his hat-trick.

Comrades, to their credit, didn't give up. On 79 minutes, good play by Jamie Willighan and Joe Tully set up a chance for Gary Donnelly from 7 yards, but his effort went too close to Devlin, allowing him to make a good save.

In the 81st minute Larne added a fourth goal, Thomas Stewart scoring with a good finish from a tight angle.

The visitors might have added to their lead in the remaining minutes but were denied on a couple of occasions by superb saves from Kyle Rowe.