



Ballyclare Comrades 2-1 Loughall

Saturday 18th August 2018 – Bluefin Sport Championship

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

- 19. Kyle Rowe
- 2. Curtis Woods
- 18. Adam Wright
- 23. Dean Youle
- 3. Christopher Crane
- 22. Gary Brown 🟦 (89')
- 10. Eoin Kane
- 4. Samuel McIlveen 🟡 (51')
- 17. Thomas Robinson
- 24. Gary Donnelly 🟡 (59')
- 9. Chris Trussell 🟡 (65')

Substitutes:

- 6. Michael McQuitty
- 8. JB Dobbin 🟢 (51')
- 12. Jason Johnston 🟢 (59') 🟦 (84')
- 7. Joe McWilliams
- 16. Jamie Willighan 🟢 (65')

Loughall: Buchanan, McVeigh, Rea, Finlay, Taylor, McCullough, Mullen, Gibson, Liggett, Hoey, Campbell. Subs: Uprichard, Copeland, Stewart, McConnell.

Comrades produced a remarkable finish to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and keep a 100% start the Championship campaign.

Unsurprisingly, manager Stephen Hughes kept faith with the side that had played so well at PSNI the previous Saturday. The only change was on the bench where Jamie Willighan replaced Chris Rodgers.

After a quiet opening to the game Loughall took a grip on the first half.

In the 7th minute they had a chance when from a corner the ball broke to Liggett, but he dragged his shot wide from 11 yards.

Four minutes later, Mullen got in on the left side of the box and fired in a shot from 12 yards which Kyle Rowe had to turn past the near post.

Comrades were struggling to put anything together as the visitors continued to dominate. In the 21st minute Loughall took a deserved lead. A well worked corner presented Gibson with an opportunity from 8 yards and he made no mistake, drilling the ball low into the net.

On 38 minutes Gibson came close to adding a second goal when he got his head to a corner at the near post, sending the ball just wide of the far post.

Comrades needed a big improvement in the second half and they certainly started in a more confident manner. The play was now flowing mostly towards the Loughgall goal. but it took the introduction of substitutes Jason Johnston and Jamie Willighan to begin to open up the visitors' defence.

With space beginning to appear for Comrades' attacking players, chances began to be created. In the 66th minute, the dynamic Gary Brown played a low ball across the 6-yard box, where Thomas Robinson slid in to send it just wide from 4 yards.

On 76 minutes the home side came close to an equaliser when Jason Johnston set up Jamie Willighan for a chance from 9 yards, but his effort was cleared off the line.

As the clock ticked on it looked as if Loughgall would hold on to take the points, but they were to be stunned by a late double from the home side.

On 84 minutes good work by Jamie Willighan in the box provide a chance for Jason Johnston, who buried it from 6 yards.

Five minutes later the home supporters were in dreamland as their side hit the front. JB Dobbin did well to surge into the box on the right before playing the ball into the middle, where Gary Brown was there to sweep it in from 5 yards for what proved to be the winner.