

A Black Day

PSNI FC 1 – 4 Crusaders Reserves

Once again Jimmy Brown had to field a P.S.N.I. side depleted by two late withdrawals. His on field problems were compounded when Mo. Arthur was carried off with ankle damage after ten minutes leaving him without a recognized striker. In the early stages a young Crusaders side played some attractive football that posed problems for the home defence. The Crues took the lead when Philson conceded a penalty on the edge of the box for Ross Cowan to score. As the second half progressed the bustling David Johnston caused all sorts of problems down the left, resulting in a second goal for the visitors when the home defence failed to clear a cross duly converted by the alert Kyle Owens. With half time approaching the P.S.N.I. were handed a life line when Mark Forsythe converted an O'Neill cross from the right past Nial Murphy to leave the half time score 2-1.

The game really came to life in the second half when a series of decisions by the referee left both sets of fans shaking their heads in disbelief. Within minutes of the start McMaster set up a great chance for O'Neill only to see the big striker hit the post. Crusaders then went three up when McCready nipped in between Philson and Wilson with the home defence again in disarray. As the Police fought to get back into the game Mark Hadden received straight red causing Jimmy Brown to question the decision resulting in his dismissal from the dug out.

The game totally fell apart as a series of Police players were booked for alleged dissent resulting in Mackle and Holden being sent off with four others receiving yellow cards. At one stage the referee appeared to have abandoned the game before changing his mind. The game ended with Ross Cowan scoring a fourth for the visitors. Two Crusaders players also received yellow cards.

P.S.N.I.

K. Wilson, J. Stevenson, (M. Hadden) K. Boyd. G. Philson, P. May, M. Forsythe, D. Gibson (A. McKnight)
G. Brown, M. Holden, M. Arthur (P. Mackle) M. Forsythe.
Subs not used: D. Gabby, W .Fry.