

Dergview 0(0) v. Limavady United 1(0)

Bluefin Sports Championship, Saturday 23rd March, Darragh Park.

Another big win for United- their third in a row-saw them gain ground on their relegation rivals in a frantic contest won by Alex Pomeroy's 50th minute solo effort, after United weathered a furious late onslaught from their hosts.

The game started at blistering pace, with robust challenges on both sides showing that neither side was content to adopt caution. The home side had a chance as early as the second minute, but Doherty volleyed over. On nine minutes, McGuckin connected with a cross from the right but his effort was taken by Wells. For the next ten minutes Dergview swarmed around United's box, and at times United were forced to soak up heavy pressure, but Carlin and Friars steadied the line, ably supported by their industrious midfield. Pomeroy, meanwhile, foraged for scraps as the lone striker, but was unable to do much on his own beyond working the home defence.

In the 19th minute, Sproule, cut in from the wing, and unleashed a powerful shot which Wells did well to get down and save smartly at his post. Four minutes later a wicked cross flashed across goal, beating Wells' acrobatic drive but two unmarked attackers at the back post got in each other's way and neither could connect. The rest of the half saw no let up in the high tempo, but without producing another clear cut chance.

The second half was crying out for a moment of quality, and it arrived on 50 minutes, when McCallion's astute pass put Pomeroy in on goal, and he was able to beat McElroy to the ball and stroke it into the net for his fourth goal in two games. Dergview responded with a double substitution five minutes later, as they sought to find a way back into the contest, but United were much more resilient, and Pomeroy was a constant menace, as he ran himself into the ground against a rugged and physical home defence.

Dergview injected new threat into their attack on 66 minutes with the introduction of player-manager Ivan Sproule, who still has the pace to carry a renewed threat . Almost immediately they won a corner, which Wells punched out under challenge before falling to the ground. With the ball loose in a penalty box melee, it was hacked off the line by a United defender.

The pivotal moment of the game came in the 85th minute, as Harkin collided with Ivan Sproule inside the box, but referee Hunter was probably the only person in the ground who did not see it as a penalty, provoking outrage from home team and support. Their anger was increased four minutes later, after Wells dived for the ball at the feet of a home attacker, but again there was no penalty. Deep into injury time, Sproule flashed a shot across goal and wide.

The game ended with United victorious, in what was more like a heavyweight boxing match, with the two side slugging it out to the point of exhaustion. Dergview certainly had the majority of the chances, and will feel aggrieved not to have had at least one penalty, but for United the game showed again that their growing team spirit will take this season to the wire, and they are now the team building momentum.

Dergview: Ruairi McElroy, Matthew Buchanan (Ivan Sproule 66), Garth Falconer, Dale Maxwell, Lee McNulty, Blaine Burns (c.), Matthew Callaghan, Gareth Doherty (Philip Wallace 55), Emmet McGuckin, Andrew Sproule, Warner Ballantyne (Matthew Kirk 55).

Substitute not used: James Harpur.

Cautioned: Kirk (76), McGuckin (89).

Limavady United: Paul Wells, Nathan Harkin, Gareth McFadden, Hugh Carlin (c.), Emmet Friars, Ryan Devine, Ryan Logue, Caoimhin McCallion, Ryan Doherty, Gary McFadden, Alex Pomeroy (Stephen Duffy 76).

Substitutes not used: Connor Brown, Ryan McCreadie, Sean Friars, Shane Boyle.

Cautioned: Devine (7).

Referee: Mr. Arnold Hunter.

Roesider Man of the match: Alex Pomeroy.