

U16 SFAI Barry Cup

Kilcock Celtic 2 Liffey Valley Rangers 1

Liffey Valley Rangers came in this fixture as favourites being the current SDFL premier champions. They had a good squad and a large group of travelling supporters.

Rangers were first to settle and got off to the better start as they tried to apply pressure on the home goal. The visitors were dominant in the air in midfield, where Craig Foley and Jordan Sherlock were winning everything that came their way.

With twenty minutes gone in the game the visitors were unlucky not to take the lead when a snap Derek Doyle strike crashed off the crossbar.

This near miss spurred the home side into action and they finally settled-in and began to start raiding down the wings. Neil Vorster chipped a pass down the wing and released Conor Dully. Dully was brought down just outside the area and the free-kick was awarded. Eoin McArdle sent in an in-swinger into the box, which was half cleared up in the air. The dropping ball was met on the volley by Evan Comerford and his net bound effort had to be cleared off the line. Celtic were now in the ascendancy as they continued to raid down both sidelines.

With ten minutes to go to the interval, the home side opened the scoring. Ian Mooney won a free kick five yards outside the area. Cathal McCabe went for goal and his wonderful effort came off the crossbar. Eoin McArdle was first to react and buried the ball to the roof of the net.

The Dubliner's went all out in search of an equaliser but Celtic always looked dangerous on the counter attack and the game swung from end to end but neither team could fashion a clear-cut chance.

After the break Rangers again began to dominate as they forced the home side to defend in numbers. Dafydd Jones and Adam Leonard were excellent in defence as they snuffed out numerous raids. Celtic continued to be dangerous on the break and nearly increased the lead when Ian Mooney slipped a through ball for Vorster to run onto. His shot beat the advancing keeper but went the agonising wide of the post.

With fifteen minutes to go the Valley finally got their equaliser. After a sustained period of pressure, Derek Doyle swung in a cross from the right to the back post and Brian Aspil blasted the ball to the back of the net.

The home side immediately upped the tempo and won a free kick when Dully was brought down thirty yards out from goal. Adam Leonard sent in the free kick and Liffey's Sean Ennis was forced to clear the ball out for a corner.

McCabe sent in the corner from the right and Leon Glennon met the ball on the half volley to regain the lead for Kilcock to the joy of the home supporters.

For the last five minutes Rangers threw everything at Kilcock, but the home sides defence performed where Captain Shaun Maguire and Dane Hoban were immense. Celtic decided to strengthen up defence with the introduction of Niall Walker and he had an immediate impact as he intercepted and cleared a dangerous attack.

The game continued to swing from end to end in a very tense finale. With two minutes left Elliot Fowler released Vorster into the box to score but the goal was disallowed for offside. Rangers continue to search for the illusive equaliser and forced the Greg Murphy to make a last minute save. Kilcock manage to hold on for the five minutes of injury time.

This was a great game to watch, played by two sets of very committed and competitive players. Both teams got the fully deserved applause of the assembled spectators. Full praise must also go to the Referee, as he allowed the game to flow and explained to players where they had made mistakes.



Dane Adam and Cathal work to clear the ball



Eoin & Neil attack up the wing



Conor requires treatment



Coaches share a joke



Celtic score winner (Leon, Conor, Neil, Shaun)



Crowd applause both teams