

Sunday, 5 September 2010
Malcolm Henderson

SYFA South East Region Cup 1st Round

AC Oxfords 4 Craigoyston 5 after extra-time

Half-Time 0-2

Full Time 2-2

Scorers

Mitchell (3), Jamie

ACO Man of the Match

There were many candidates for MOM as everybody gave their best and Kai in particular was everywhere, however for scoring a fine hat-trick and working hard there was always only going to be one winner - Mitchell.

It was always going to be a difficult game against Craigoyston in the cup but the Blues were up for it after their fine win down in Leith last week in the Scottish. There was an early set back when Charlie called off with a broken finger and worse was to follow on Sunday morning when Ben was unable to recover from the illness that had kept him off school.

The Blues kicked off against the wind and were looking comfortable containing a good Craigoyston side, however they were not managing to string too many passes together but one good move down the left saw Fudge deliver the ball across the face of the goal but no one was able to apply the finishing touch.

Then Craigoyston broke clear and opened the scoring and then there followed a period of play where both defences were well on top and it looked as though the game would stay that way until half time when Craigoyston broke down the left and swung in a cross that was headed in at the far post . If only Ben, our aerial power, had been fit.

Half-Time 0-2

The second half saw changes that brought on all the subs and the boys started to believe in themselves as Kai tried to free the forwards and finally managed to find Mitchell in the box who scored with some aplomb.

Fudge, not wanting to miss out, produced a bit of magic on the left with a 'fudge' turn a pass to Scott and then Fudge hit the bar with a volley. But the goal was soon to come as Jamie broke clear put the ball past the keeper and Mitchell grabbed his brace.

The joy was short lived as Craigoyston took a quick free kick and their star striker headed well into the goal. Royce then made a great save with his fingertips. The game ebbed and flowed until Jamie levelled the game with 5 minutes remaining. Both teams were going for the winner but neither managed it and so we were left with extra time.

Full-Time 2-2

Extra-Time First Period

This time the Blues played with the wind in the first half and the game was like the first period with both teams looking tired. The Blues had the best chance when Fudge crossed from the left but Nicky failed to get his header on target.

H-T 2-2

Extra-Time Second Period

The second period saw Craigroyston take an early lead with another header before adding a 5th goal.

This was to prove a catalyst to the most exciting five minutes of football we have witnessed. From the kick off Mitchell passed to Jamie who dribbled forward and picked out Mitchell who had made a forward run and scored well into the top of the net.

Royce was forced into action at the other end before Scott played Jamie through, but his shot was straight at the keeper. Matty then drove forward and again played Jamie through and this time the shot went wide.

As time ran out the Blues had one last chance as Jamie broke free on the right. Mitchell and Nicky were in support, however he went for goal and just missed.

The Referee blew for the end of the game and the Blues had narrowly lost a game that was a great advert for youth football - lots of goals, lots of commitment and no cynical fouls. Every boy gave their all today and I apologise for not mentioning them all individually as there was too much goal mouth action. A defeat, but if it had been a league game it would have been a draw against the top team.

F-T 4-5

Please note our Match Reports are written from an AC Oxfords perspective and are primarily intended for the benefit of our players, officials and supporters. Understandably, our match reporters will focus on our own performance but this does not imply that the contribution of the opposing team has been deliberately undervalued.

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