

Sunday, 27 March 2011
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ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

Tranent Too Powerful for ACO

AC Oxgangs 2 Tranent Colts 7

Half-Time 1-4

Scorers

Max, James

ACO Man of the Match

This week coaches agreed that there was one stand out performance, not taking away the good performances from the rest of the team. This week's MOTM goes to Liam. This is for his hard work in defence putting in tackles and playing the ball up the pitch when needed. Well Done.

In the reverse of this fixture last November, AC Oxgangs lost 6-0 in torrential rain so this was probably going to be another tough fixture. So, on Census day, how many ACO players would stand up and be counted?

Tranent started very brightly, winning two corners almost immediately. Soon after, a Tranent player sprinted down the right wing, cut in, and scored from a very narrow angle. ACO were very busy in defence, and were being pegged back in their own half, and it wasn't long before Tranent scored another. Aaron made a good stop from a shot, but the ball fell to an unmarked Tranent player in the box, and he slotted home. Straight from the kick off Tranent won another corner. ACO all watched the ball fly across the box to a Tranent player who tapped in to make it 0-3.

ACO then had some good passages of close passing play, but they never seemed to be able to get a clear shot. Zac chased down a ball that looked like going out, and turned it into a promising ACO attack, but nothing came of the resulting corner. ACO then won a series of throws on the right and edged up the pitch, but again nothing came of the attack. ACO won a corner on the right, and the clearance fell nicely for Kieran who volleyed the ball back in, but from too far out to trouble the keeper. The ball was then passed in to Leo on the edge of the box, and he turned well, letting the ball run past him before shooting in to the keeper's arms. Eventually the pressure paid off, and Max picked up the ball after the keeper spilled it, and rounded him to score and get ACO back in the game.

Unfortunately, Tranent immediately restored their three goal cushion. A shot was deflected out for a corner, and again ACO all left the ball as it came across, and the Tranent player was left with an easy finish.

Both sides then had chances before half time. Leo put the Tranent defence under a lot of pressure, closing down the defenders, but after he was stopped in the box Tranent sent a long ball straight through the middle and Aaron had to rush out to make a great save with his legs just before the half-time whistle went.

Half-time 1 - 4

In the first 20 minutes of the second half, ACO were much more of an even match for Tranent. James collected a long clearance from Liam and held off the Tranent defender well before calmly knocking the ball past the onrushing keeper to score. ACO were passing the ball well in small triangles, but often couldn't spot the longer

passes. Christopher was showing a lot of determination chasing down the ball, and managed to feed a good ball through to James, but his shot was blocked, as was Brodie's follow-up shot.

In defence, ACO seemed to be growing in confidence. Aaron had to close down defenders a few times, narrowing the angle, and Cillian made some great last-ditch tackles. Liam, never frightened of going in for a 50-50 ball, was clearing the ball well up the pitch, and knocking it into touch safely when that was the only option. At times though, ACO were struggling to get the ball out of the retreating area, with Tranent quickly closing down when it became live.

Attacking, ACO managed to produce a few chances. Christopher weighted a great pass through to James with the outside of his foot, and James beat the defenders to reach the byline, but had left too narrow an angle to score. Soon after, James cut the ball back to Brodie who was rushing in from midfield but his shot was saved. Christopher then nicked the ball in midfield and broke through, only for the Tranent defender to tackle him just as he was lining up a shot. He then had an even better chance, curling the ball towards the top corner with his left foot, but the Tranent keeper managed to get a hand to the ball.

In the last five minutes of the match, Tranent had three more chances, and managed to put away every one of them. They were all almost identical, with a long ball through the middle finding a Tranent player, who calmly finished each time. It was a disappointing end to a half in which ACO had played well.

Full-Time 2 - 7

Coaches Message:

With the first half pretty one sided our second half performance showed that we could compete with a team like Tranent. Showing some good passing when in tight places and some good defending. Still got a lot of things to work on at training. Please work on the exercise's that we do in training at home, this is to help you improve your skills and abilities and to help make you become a better and more confident player. See everyone on Thursday.

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