

Thursday, 28 April 2011
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ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

AC Edge a Thrilling Game of Two Halves

AC Oxgangs 6 Loanhead Miners 4

Half-Time 6-0

Scorers

Christopher (3), Leo, James

ACO Man of the Match

This week again was another great performance by everyone, another contender for goal of the season, some good quick passing moves. Coaches feel like the score may have been a bit different if it wasn't for one boy - today's MOTM is Aaron. This is for some truly outstanding saves in both halves and controlling his box well during the game. Well Done.

It is a footballing cliché to talk about a game of two halves, but there is no other way to describe this match against Loanhead!

ACO were put under pressure early on with a shot that forced Aaron into a save. The resulting corner bobbed around the box, and a shot looped over Aaron onto the crossbar. However, ACO hit Loanhead on the break, with James sending a great pass through to Leo who outpaced the defence and forced the keeper to save, but Christopher was there to knock in the rebound to give ACO the lead.

Loanhead continued to spend most of the time in and around the ACO area. Cillian intercepted a ball well, and then harried the Loanhead player away from the goal before tackling him to concede a corner. From this, Loanhead managed a shot that Brodie very calmly cleared off the line. Again ACO hit Loanhead on the break, with Aaron H providing the through ball to Leo, who unselfishly passed to Christopher for him to grab his second goal. Soon after ACO were three up. Christopher played a short corner to James on the edge of the box who cleverly let the ball run across him to fool the defender before curling a shot into the far top corner.

Loanhead then had a long period of possession but couldn't produce any shots on target. Eventually Brodie broke out from defence with a surging run down the full length of the pitch before crossing. Unfortunately Loanhead cleared the ball but James tracked back well to cover the gap in defence and clear for a corner. The Loanhead player then sent in a great low shot that forced an equally good save from Aaron, who tipped the ball round the post.

ACO then inched along the right wing with a series of throws before winning a corner. The ball was fired into the box and in the confusion Christopher managed to bundle the ball over the line for his hat-trick. ACO then got another with a flowing end-to-end passing move. Aaron rolled the ball out to James, who squared it to Christopher. He found Aaron H who bypassed the defence with a pass to Leo, and he finished well to put ACO five goals ahead. From the kick-off Aaron H and Leo pressured Loanhead and won the ball back, and Aaron H repeated his pass, and Leo scored again to make it six goals! Loanhead then piled on the pressure. Liam needed to make a crucial interception, and Kieran made a strong challenge and clearance in the box, and Aaron made another amazing save from a point-blank shot. ACO went into the break 6-0 up, despite both teams having a similar number of chances.

Half-time 6 - 0

The second half was almost a mirror image of the first, with both teams playing well but Loanhead capitalising on many of their chances. ACO started well, and Aaron H set Kieran free, but the defender managed to get back before he could shoot. Loanhead sent a long ball forward, but Aaron was out quickly to clear. Then they repeated the move, but this time found their attacker and he finished well to get one goal back. Loanhead then had a long period of sustained pressure, and Liam and Kieran were both required to produce strong clearances. Loanhead then had a great chance in the box, but two of their players got tangled and ACO cleared. Aaron had to make another strong save, this time with his feet, and Loanhead had a number of shots off-target. ACO managed one break, with Kieran one-on-one with the keeper but his shot was saved.

Loanhead then managed to get another back when their attacker suddenly found loads of room in the box, turned, and scored. Straight from the kick-off, James surged forward and shot, forcing a good save from the keeper. Kieran then set Max free, but his shot was saved, and James tried to chip the keeper from the rebound but was too far out. James then had another great chance, and his shot went through the keeper's legs, but the defender raced back to clear off the line. At the other end Aaron was in fine form, making two more spectacular saves, but eventually Loanhead scored, a long, looping shot creeping in under the bar.

Loanhead now seemed to believe they could level the match, but was there enough time left? One cross shot straight across the ACO box and nobody could reach it. Then another shot was cleared off the line by Christopher, but the ball came back into the box and was fired past Aaron to make it 6-4.

ACO managed to relieve some of the pressure, and James' shot was spilled by the keeper and Max almost followed-up but the keeper recovered well, injuring himself in the process. Fortunately for ACO this was about the last action of the match, and Loanhead didn't have time to score any more.

Full-Time 6 - 4

Coaches Message:

Well that was definitely an interesting match. First half, some of the football we played was excellent, the way we managed to break from a Loanhead corner was just fantastic to watch. Standing with the kids at half time telling them that they have been excellent is probably the best feeling you could have as a coach. Looking for that every week. Second half was, well let's say, different. Keeping up the first half performance was always going to be difficult, still managed some good plays and got a few shots away, but the big thing in the second half was the way we managed to defend after losing an early goal. Well done again boys - a great win. See everyone Thursday.

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