

Sunday, 29 May 2011
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

ACO Edge '11' Goal Thriller

AC Oxgangs 6 Dalkeith Miners 5

Half-Time 4-2

Scorers

Max (2), James (2), Zac, o.g.

ACO Man of the Match

With today's game being a very close encounter, everyone had to be on the best performance of the season so far. Tough one again today, but this week's MOTM was Leo. This was for his work effort up and down the wings. Getting the ball and using his speed to get past the Dalkeith defence. Well Done.

This was the first meeting of the season between these two teams, and they produced an entertaining and very evenly matched game at a very windy Colinton Mains Park.

The first few minutes of the match saw both teams adjusting to the windy conditions. After some good running down the right, Leo had to hit a cross with a lot more power for it to reach Max in the box, but the ball wouldn't sit well for him to get a shot. Christopher also sent a huge pass down the right but the wind took it out of play. James and Max also managed shots, but both fired wide.

Dalkeith also had a few attacks, and Cillian had to make two good clearances in quick succession at the back. They also managed one shot, but Aaron collected the ball comfortably. At the other end James put in a good low cross that the keeper could only push out into Leo's path. He slipped the ball sideways to Max who put the ball into the net and gave ACO a deserved lead. Dalkeith almost immediately equalised with an excellent solo effort, their player evading a number of ACO tackles and scoring.

ACO responded well, and Christopher sent a great pass out to Leo who managed to win a corner. James whipped in a strong ball into the wind that fell at Max's feet in the box and he slotted home another goal for ACO. Dalkeith then broke through the ACO defence but Aaron was out quickly to smother the ball. ACO then had a long period of possession and passed the ball out of defence well, but Dalkeith intercepted one pass and quickly counter-attacked, but Christopher raced back and forced them wide, conceding a corner. Aaron collected the this well and immediately set up a quick break. He threw the ball to Leo, who sent the ball to Max and his shot was only cleared by a diving header.

ACO were passing the ball well, and Kieran sent a good ball down the line to Max who set up James but his shot went wide. Dalkeith weren't seeing much of the ball and an excellent passing move by ACO that covered most of the pitch ended with James in the box and he finished well to put ACO 3-1 ahead. Dalkeith finished the half strongly, with one shot just wide. Then Aaron had to rush out to save one-on-one when a Dalkeith forward broke through the defence.

Half-Time: 3-1

Dalkeith continued to attack at the start of the second half. Liam had to make a strong clearance almost immediately, and soon after a strong shot from outside the box took a deflection and flew past Aaron into the net. They continued to attack, and Brodie needed to make a good block, then Aaron collected the ball comfortably from a cross and managed to set up another quick counter-attack. Aaron H sent a great ball up for Zac to run on to, and he managed to get a toe onto it as the keeper challenged him, but the ball didn't carry through to the goal. At the other end a Dalkeith cross missed all the ACO players in the box and the forward was left an easy tap-in to make the match all square.

The game was now very even, and end-to-end. Aaron H sent a couple of good balls through to Zac, but the keeper was doing a good job. Dalkeith also managed to get through ACO's defence but Aaron narrowed the angle quickly and forced the shot wide. Zac was getting a lot of the ball, and sent in a great cross from near the corner flag, but the keeper managed to collect. He then got a shot in from the right, but the angle was too narrow and he hit the side netting. James then won the ball on the retreating line and fed the ball to Zac, but his shot was blocked for a corner. James' corner was cleared back to him, and with his back to goal he hit a high ball into the box that looped over the keeper into the far corner.

By now ACO were back in control and James spotted a great diagonal pass through to Zac, and his shot again went out for a corner. James fired in another strong, wind-assisted corner right onto the goal line, and the ball hit a Dalkeith defender's knee and shot into the net. Immediately ACO scored again. James spotted Zac's run, and he sent a perfect pass that Zac took in his stride and fired past the keeper. ACO were now 6-3 up and looking comfortable in the lead. James tried the same pass again, but this time the keeper got there first, then he tried again with a high pass that Zac somehow trapped on his back, but then shot wide.

Dalkeith then started to get back into the game. Aaron had to rush out to force a shot wide, then a Dalkeith player stole the ball at the edge of the box and ran in to finish under Aaron's dive. They then had another shot that hit the side netting. ACO failed to get the ball away from the goal kick, and despite a good save by Aaron, the ball was bundled into the net. Dalkeith nearly equalised after a long clearance from the halfway line bounced over Aaron but he managed to scramble back to knock it out for a corner. The full time whistle went and ACO had done enough to win the match!

Full-Time: 6-5

Coaches Message:

Boys, again today, top performance. Picked up the pace when we needed to, played the right passes out wide and into the striker. We took our chances again today so well done. Hopefully everyone can now see that working as a team is the best way forward. Getting the ball down playing short and accurate passes is how you get the ball forward. Defence just need to remember if you are being pressured and have nowhere to go, then just a simple kick out of the pitch for a throw-in is the best option. Finally, very well played again this week, never gave up even when Dalkeith came back at us. Trip to North Berwick next week ☺. See everyone on Thursday.

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