

Sunday, 19 June 2011
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

AC Finish With Win Against Spartans

AC Oxgangs 6 Spartans 1

Half-Time 4-0

Scorers

Leo(2), James, Max, Zac(2)

ACO Man of the Match

With this being the final game before our summer break, I hope you will let me off with not singling anyone out. This week the whole team gets the MOTM award. With such a brilliant performance to finish, we couldn't let anyone's performance go unnoticed. Well Done.

This was ACO's last game before the mid-season break so they were looking to finish on a high, especially after last week's heavy defeat.

ACO started very confidently, and were managing a lot of one-touch passes all across the pitch, despite the difficult wet surface at CMP. James and Leo were passing the ball back and forth around the box and neither seemed to want to have a shot but eventually Leo found himself free in the area and blasted the ball into the roof of the net to give ACO an early lead. Max was finding some space on the left to fire in some great crosses, and spotted Leo with a huge cross-field pass, but the ball skidded away on the wet surface.

Spartans weren't seeing much of the ball, but when they did they showed a lot of skill and Cillian did well to track his man without diving in, and then muscled him off the ball, before calmly passing the ball to James. On the other wing Liam was standing up strong in his tackles and was sending some huge throw-ins up the line. Kieran sent a great ball along the line to James who sent in a quick cross to Leo in the box but the ball wouldn't sit for him to have a shot. Max had two chances in the box from corners and was unlucky not to score. By now the tackling was getting a lot tougher and Cillian timed one perfectly to block the ball allowing Liam to clear. Spartans did manage a cross that flew across the box but fortunately nobody was there to turn the ball in.

ACO continued to attack - first James raced on to a wayward Spartans free kick but the ball ran too far back to the keeper. Then James, Max and Leo produced some neat passes and Max was again unlucky to lose out when he challenged the keeper for the ball. Max then sent in two more great crosses to James in the box but the Spartans keeper was playing well and cleared them both. Then in a great series of one-touch passes, James sent the ball to Kieran who found Max, and then back to James whose shot was deflected onto the post and out.

Aaron had hardly touched the ball in goal, but was alert when a shot took an awkward bounce in front of him and he had to tip in round the post to be safe. ACO broke away quickly and Max's shot was straight at the keeper. Kieran then won the ball back and sent the ball across the pitch to Leo, but again the keeper stopped him. Max then sent two more great crosses into the box and James and Leo both had chances. Eventually the pressure paid off as James had one shot saved, then the follow up, and then the ball fell to Leo who had a simple finish to double ACO's lead.

ACO then had another chance with Max finding Kieran in the box who laid the ball off for Leo but his shot was just wide. Then a high ball from Kieran fooled the defence and James took one touch round the other defender before firing in a powerful shot to make it 3-0. ACO then scored another after a mis-hit pass from James was then mis-hit by the defender and Max had a simple tap in.

Half-Time: 4-0

The second half was a much more even affair, and straight away Aaron had to make a good low save to tip the ball round the post. ACO had to reshuffle as Aaron H's pre-match injury meant he had to come off. Brodie had to make a great tackle when he was the last man and Liam then cleared the ball right up to Zac in the box but the keeper collected the ball well. Leo then sent a ball to Zac who turned well but again the keeper stopped him. The Spartans keeper was having a good day and pulled off a great save from James' long shot. Kieran then won the ball well in midfield and sent the ball through the Spartans defence to Zac who finished well past the keeper.

Spartans were finding some space down the left, and their defender took the ball right down the pitch forcing Aaron to save with his feet at the near post. Then Spartans attacked again and despite some great defending ACO couldn't clear the ball and the ball was fired back in past Aaron. Straight from the kick off Aaron had to make another great save, but ACO broke back really quickly and James sent a pass right round the back of the Spartans defence to Zac who ran on to the ball and finished past the keeper again.

James then picked up the ball and evaded some tough challenges before forcing another great save from the Spartans keeper. The ball fell to Kieran in the box but he took one touch too many and Spartans cleared, leaving ACO light in defence. Aaron had to make a couple more good saves and cleared the ball up the pitch. The final whistle went and ACO had won a very tough, physical game.

Full-Time: 6-1

Coaches Message:

Brilliant performance today, great way to end the first half of the season. I hope everyone noticed the improvement we have had since we first started at soccer-sevens. Brilliant passing of the ball, better shooting and better team performance. Well done for the year we have had, looking forward to getting back into it in August. Well Done. Enjoy Summer.

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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