

Sunday, 18th September 2011
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ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

ACO Rue Missed Chances as Tranent Edge 7 Goal Thriller

Tranent Colts 4 AC Oxfords 3

Half-Time 2-3

Scorers

James (2), Leo

ACO Man of the Match

With everyone performing so well this week, it was another tricky decision for the coaches to pick this week's MOTM. After a loooooonnnngggg think this week's MOTM is James. With good passing, communication, shooting and dribbling, James performed very well this week and deserves MOTM. Well Done.

After last week's convincing win against Musselburgh, ACO came up against Tranent Colts, a team that had beaten them 6-0 in their previous meeting last November. Another good test to see how much progress ACO had made over the year.

Tranent made a very quick and confident start, and it was clear that their three attacking players were all skilful and very pacy. However, ACO showed that they were equal to them when Christopher pounced on a loose ball in the midfield and set Leo free on the right, and his cross was knocked behind for a corner. The first few minutes set the pattern for the game with end-to-end action and quick counter attacks. ACO attacked with a neat passing move between Max, Cillian and Christopher, but Tranent raced back up the pitch and hit the post. However, ACO failed to clear the ball out of the retreating area from the goal kick, and the Tranent attacker raced in to give them the lead.

ACO didn't let this affect them though, and another good passing move between Chris, James and Max ended up with Max's shot hitting the post, and James was alert to the rebound and had a tap-in to equalise. Tranent were still a threat and Aaron was commanding his area well with plenty of shouting and some comfortable catches. Another good move saw Max send a ball through the defence to Leo, but the ball ran away from him down the slope. ACO then won a corner that James planted almost on the goal line and somehow the ball ended up being scooped over the bar. ACO were passing the ball well, but Tranent intercepted the ball well and raced up the pitch, but shot wide. From the goal kick ACO failed to clear again and Aaron had to make a great save, then Cillian threw himself in front of the follow-up and ACO survived.

Tranent then took the lead when a hopeful long shot sneaked in off the far post. ACO attacked again but left themselves light in defence and Liam and Cillian had to be alert to stop a quick Tranent break. Aaron then had to make another good save but from the resulting corner he collected the ball and sent the ball out quickly to James who raced down the pitch and rounded the keeper, but ran out of pitch before he could get the ball in the net. Again ACO left themselves light in defence and Cillian made a vital tackle at the back to stop another quick break. Then Leo cleared from just outside his own box and set James free again. Rather than round the keeper again, he tried to shoot and this time the ball went in for another ACO equaliser.

ACO ended the half with some determined play down the left with Cillian and James winning the ball back with some tough tackles. Christopher then chipped the ball in to Max in the box, and he forced the keeper to make a good save, but Leo was there for the follow up to give ACO the lead at half time.

Half-Time: 2-3

Tranent started the second half more positively than ACO, and Brodie was quickly in to clear with a great ball down the line to Leo. Then Brodie and Kieran had to combine to force another attack wide and Aaron collected the resulting cross easily, before quickly throwing the ball to James to start a counter-attack. The ball was spending much more time in and around the ACO box, and Leo made a very calm header back to Aaron. ACO failed to clear the goal kick again, but Kieran recovered the ball well, then Brodie had to concede a corner. Then the same thing happened, but this time Aaron made a great save and Brodie cleared the rebound. Tranent then broke through the middle of the ACO defence and Aaron raced out to narrow the angle and force the shot wide.

ACO then gave away a free kick on the edge of the box, and Aaron pushed the ball away, then James hoofed the ball clear, but it was sent right back into the box and Aaron collected it bravely down amongst everyone's feet. ACO then broke quickly along the right, and Christopher sent a great cross into the near post where James challenged the keeper, but he managed to hold on to the ball. Then Tranent equalised with a great run through the ACO defence and a smart finish. From the kick off James ran right up the pitch and forced a corner, but Tranent cleared it and Brodie was in well to stop the counter-attack.

Tranent then took the lead with a powerful but hopeful cross from the right that sailed past everyone in the area and into the net. ACO finished the match on the attack, and James sent the ball through to Zac but the Tranent defender stood up well, then another through ball was just intercepted, otherwise Zac was clear through on the keeper. In the last move of the match Zac forced a great save from the keeper, and the Tranent defender hit the ball off his own post when trying to clear the ball.

A really exciting game to watch with some great play from both sides, and one that either side could have won.

Full-Time: 4-3

Coaches Message:

Well, where do we start? Passing was quick and direct, shooting was on target, communication was standard and again has to be improved. When we attack, we have to watch how far the middle midfielder pushes up - Tranent were quick on the break. Overall today's performance was very good, competing against a team that beat us 6-0 and 7-2 in our last two fixtures against them. We done very well and we believe we shocked them at how much we have improved. Keep that level of performance up and hopefully we'll continue with that type of football and skilful ability for the next game. Well done, See you Thursday.

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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