

Sunday, 6th November 2011
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

ACO Beaten by Strong Dalkeith Side

AC Oxgangs 4 – Dalkeith 7

Half-Time 3-3

Scorers

Leo, James (2), Zac

ACO Man of the Match

This week's MOTM is another tough one, with all players playing well, providing AC with attacking football, and creating chances. This week's MOTM is Leo. With his first half performance, taking on the Dalkeith defence and creating some excellent chances, and grabbing himself a goal. Well Done.

ACO's last match against Dalkeith had been a close affair with ACO winning by the odd goal in eleven.

Dalkeith started the brighter of the two teams, hitting the post with an early cross, and firing a shot into the side netting. They then scored the opening goal with a long ball through the middle that bypassed the ACO defence for the attacker to knock into the net. ACO started to get more of the ball, and James showed some neat dribbling through the middle of the field to bring the ball forwards. However, Dalkeith pushed back and Cillian needed to be strong to tackle and clear, then Leo was back to help out the defence.

ACO found some space on the left, and Kieran's looping shot fell into the keeper's arms. In defence, Liam stayed with his man to force him wide, but the ball came back to the edge of the box and Aaron had to make a great save from a snap shot. Aaron set up a quick counter attack, with Aaron H winning a series of tackles before James fed the ball out to Kieran, whose shot went just wide. Then Liam sent a great long ball to James, but no-one was in the box to receive his cross. Dalkeith passed the ball confidently up the pitch and scored a second goal with an excellent shot to the far post.

Straight from the kick-off James powered forwards and shot wide, then Leo sped down the right wing and turned the ball back to James but his shot was blocked. From the corner, Dalkeith raced back up the pitch and scored another goal with a shot that went in off the post.

ACO didn't deserve to be three goals down, and Leo soon put that right after intercepting a loose pass, knocking the ball past the last man, and finishing well to grab a goal back. James nearly got another after pouncing on the kick-off but his shot was wide. It was all ACO now, and Leo fed another ball to James from the right, but his shot went across the face of goal. Then Kieran won the ball in midfield and passed to James, whose speculative shot sneaked in past the keeper for another goal. Straight from the kick off Leo won the ball and again found James, but his shot went wide. Then James closed down the defender quickly and finished with a neat chip past the keeper, and ACO were level.

After ACO's dominance, Dalkeith finished the half well, and Aaron had to pounce bravely on a loose ball from a corner, but it was all square at half time.

Half time: 3-3

Dalkeith started the second half well, and there was confusion in the ACO box before Christopher brought the ball out calmly. Liam sent the ball up to Zac, who found James with a good pass, but his shot went over the bar. It was Dalkeith who scored the next goal though, after a soft shot took a wicked deflection past Aaron. ACO were still passing the ball well, and Max and Zac combined well along the left. James sent in a good cross that was cleared from Max's feet just as he was lining up the shot.

Dalkeith managed to break through the ACO defence again and Aaron was out quickly to force the shot wide. However, ACO lost the ball coming out of defence and it was sent straight back into the net for another goal. Christopher, Max and Zac passed the ball well but couldn't get through a resolute Dalkeith defence. Then James found a pass that bypassed the defence, but Max's shot was straight at the keeper.

Dalkeith were much more dominant now, and the ACO defence were busy. Brodie shepherded the attacker out to the wing well, then Aaron smothered the ball in the box. Liam sent a long ball that nearly got through to Zac, but Dalkeith raced back up the pitch from a quick throw-in and scored another goal. On the next attack, Liam stopped the ball in the box, then Aaron had to make a good one-handed save. Then a long shot came in that Aaron saved, and the ball was bundled out for a corner.

Dalkeith nearly got through again when two ACO players collided in midfield, but Kieran managed to get in to stop the break. Then ACO lost the ball in midfield, and Dalkeith raced round the defence to score another goal. Dalkeith attacked from the kick-off, and Brodie made a crucial stop when one-on-one, then was back to clear after Aaron made another good save. Kieran then sent a great long ball up to Zac who quickly turned and out-paced the defence before finishing with a neat, placed shot. ACO nearly repeated the move when Kieran sent another long pass up to Zac, but a last-ditch tackle forced his shot just wide.

Dalkeith attacked again, and Brodie made another good stop in the box, then Kieran, Christopher, Max and Zac brought the ball up the pitch with a nice passing move, but there wasn't enough time left for a comeback, and the final whistle went.

Full time: 4-7

Coaches Message:

Unlucky today, poor slow start, letting Dalkeith have a 3 goal lead, was always going to be difficult. Well done in getting the 3 goals back, unlucky that half-time came just as we got our 3rd. Again, we needed to score the first goal after half-time, we just couldn't get it. Played some good football, creating good opportunities. Need to work on communication and movement. Well played today. See you Thursday.

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