

Sunday, 7 November 2010
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

AC Dominate Second Half But Fall Short

Cramond 5 AC Oxgangs 4

Half-Time 3-2

Scorers

Zac, James, Aaron H., Max

ACO Man of the Match

There were a lot of good performances today and again the boys gave the coaches a hard choice. This week's Man of the Match has been giving to Max. This was for his constant running up and down the pitch, working for the team, finding some great positions in the box and scoring a good goal. Well done to everyone again.

After last week's postponement, AC Oxgangs were hoping to produce a much stronger showing than their last outing against Spartans. However, I'm sure they left this game wondering how they had managed to end up on the losing side after an entertaining match against Cramond.

ACO started very brightly, moving the ball around confidently. Max found some space on the left wing and whipped in a cross that Christopher couldn't quite reach, but Zac was following up and sidefooted the ball in to give ACO an early lead. Cramond tried to respond immediately, and Aaron did well to tip a shot over the bar, and soon after was out quickly to narrow the angle and force the Cramond striker to shoot wide.

Max and James were linking up well, and another cross in from the left found James, whose initial shot was saved, but he managed to knock in the rebound to double ACO's lead. The game was end-to-end, and the ball was soon into the ACO box, forcing Aaron in for another low save, and Brodie was in quickly to clear the ball. Soon after, Cramond pulled one back after their player rode two ACO tackles before firing the ball past Aaron.

ACO then dominated for a spell, with Max nearly capitalising on a soft back-pass, shooting just wide, and then forcing the keeper into a great save. Kieran then fired a long throw into the box to Max, who again forced a corner. However, Cramond broke quickly, and their player ran the entire length of the pitch to fire in the equaliser. Within a minute, a Cramond forward suddenly found himself in acres of space in front of goal and scored at the second attempt to give Cramond the lead.

ACO pushed forward more, with Kieran bringing the ball down the left wing before passing to James who fired the ball in to Max, but his shot sneaked just wide. Christopher, Aaron and Zac then produced a neat one-touch move to get the ball to Max in the box again, but he was unlucky to see another shot whizz past the post. All this left ACO light at the back, and Liam came across to cover well, giving Kieran time to get back into the box to stop another Cramond attack just before the half-time whistle.

Half-Time 3-2

ACO spent most of the second half in the Cramond half, with Aaron having little to do in goal. Max was finding plenty of opportunities on the left, and James was covering a lot of ground to set up most of the attacks. One of his passes into the box looked like it was just too far in front of Aaron H, but he managed to reach it and poke in an equaliser.

All this attacking did leave more gaps at the back, but Liam made a couple of really strong interceptions and clearances. He also managed to hold up two attackers by himself to give the rest of the team time to get back to cover. One long ball did find its way to Aaron, but he was out quickly to clear with his feet. At the other end, Aaron H was quickly on to a defender who took too many touches near the goal, but his shot was just wide. A nice one-two between Zac and James also ended with a shot going wide. Christopher also nearly scored, and James fired in a long shot that left the keeper standing, but that fizzed past the post as well. He then hit the post, and soon after nearly forced Cramond into scoring an own goal.

Against the run of play Cramond then scored again, with Liam left isolated at the back and unable to cover all the attackers. ACO continued to attack, with Christopher, James and Aaron H all seeing shots go just wide. ACO were piling everyone forward with even Liam and Kieran appearing in the box occasionally. Cramond then scored another breakaway goal with a fine shot from a long way out going in off the post, leaving Aaron no chance of saving it. There was just time for ACO to pull one back before the final whistle went, with Max suddenly finding the ball drop to his feet in the box.

ACO were unlucky to lose considering the number of chances they had, but still a good performance with plenty of great passing play.

Full-Time 5-4

Coaches Message: “Well played again, especially in the second half. This week we took a two goal lead, instead of losing the first goals. As we spoke at half time, and during the game, the defence need to watch how far we push up, leaving big holes in the pitch for the opposing team to attack. Also I think parents will agree should have got something out of today's game, with some better finishing we could have got that win/draw that we deserved. But in the end today's performance was good and the match was very exciting (Matt & Chris showing that with their head in their hands most of the second half). Well done and see everyone Thursday.

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