

Sunday, 14 November 2010
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

AC Lose on Cold and Wet Morning

Tranent 6 AC Oxfangs 0

Half-Time 1-0

ACO Man of the Match

With the weather being so wet and cold today, the boys didn't look like they were enjoying it. Man of the Match this week has gone to Liam. This is for a strong display of defending in both halves. Hopefully, we can keep that kind of defending and be able to stop losing so many goals.

After leaving a cold, wet Edinburgh in the middle of a downpour, AC Oxfangs must have been relieved to see that the weather wasn't quite as bad in Tranent for this week's fixture. ACO were playing in their red away strip for the first time this season.

Tranent raced forward straight from the kick-off, and Aaron was forced to save from their very pacy forward. The ACO defence now knew they might be in for a busy morning. ACO quickly got the ball up the other end with a long throw from Kieran to Aaron H, and he turned well to find James, but he was closed down quickly by the defence and couldn't get a clear shot at goal. This end-to-end pattern was repeated through most of the first half.

ACO were getting a few passes together, and Leo and Aaron H worked the ball down the right, but again were closed down quickly by an organised Tranent defence. At the other end, Christopher was tracking back to help in defence, and Liam did well to save a corner, showing determination to get back and clear. Tranent were firing in high corners into the box, which were causing ACO some problems, but fortunately none of them came to anything. At one point the Tranent forward got free again, but Aaron closed the angle very quickly and his shot went wide.

ACO were managing to find space for some shots, but these were either straight into the keeper's arms or wide. A corner into the box from James almost resulted in an own goal, but the Tranent defender saw his clearance narrowly go over the bar.

In defence, Liam was managing to keep pace with the Tranent forward, and was managing to put him off his stride before he reached the goal. Kieran and Liam were both fairly busy at times, and showed great strength to muscle in and win the ball. However, eventually Tranent managed to score. Aaron saved well from a shot that came in from the left, but the ball dropped kindly for a Tranent player who tapped the ball in.

ACO didn't let their heads drop, and probably then produced some of their best play. Max sent a great through ball to James, who probably had more time than he realised to shoot, but his early effort was saved. Then Christopher, Max and James combined in a lovely flowing move, and Christopher's shot was spilled by the keeper and went out for a corner. Max then crossed early for Zac to shoot, but his effort was just wide. In the final move of the half James again managed to find acres of space, but again his shot was saved by the keeper.

Half-Time 1-0

After an immaculately observed minute's silence for Remembrance Sunday at half time, the weather started to deteriorate, and the cold rain started to get much heavier. The cold seemed to be causing problems for ACO and also for my notebook, which became too wet to write on, so the second half notes are rather sparse!

Cillian was in to block the ball to concede a corner straight from the kick off, and Aaron had to save the resulting cross to concede another. From this, a Tranent player found space in the box to fire in their second goal. ACO managed to find some attacking outlets, and Kieran brought the ball down the left to pass to Max, but Tranent were across quickly to close him down. James then split the defence with a neat pass but the keeper anticipated well and was out to the ball before Max could get there.

In the ACO box Cillian had to block another shot to concede a corner. The Tranent player fired in another great corner at the near post, and the ball deflected off Kieran past Aaron into the net. At this stage, ACO could still have considered themselves unlucky to be three goals down, as they were still producing chances - Zac's shot going straight into the keeper's arms, and Max and James both shooting wide.

At the other end, the forward who had been causing problems all match raced free again, but tried to round Aaron to score. Fortunately he overran the ball and Brodie picked up the ball and brought it out of defence. Tranent then bombarded the ACO goal for ages, hitting the post, then scoring three more goals: the first two from unmarked players in the box, and the third taking another deflection from a corner to take it past Aaron.

Before the end of the match, ACO had a couple of chances, with Christopher having a shot saved, and James attempting an audacious chip from the edge of the box that just went over the bar. Finally the referee brought the game to a close, and everyone rushed to get dry and warm again.

Half-Time 6-0

Coaches Message: "Looking at the first half, everyone performed very well. If we could only take our chances then the game may have had a different outcome. As said at half time, one week, we will take our chances, but we need to keep working hard, to get our finishing better. Second-half, we began slow and we think the break got everyone cold and wet. We never got started and Tranent were able to get a few goals in front. Again we will forget this week, start again on Thursday and look forward to a tough game at the weekend.

Finally could the coaches just say thank you to AC players and parents and also Tranent players, parents and coaches, for the well respected minute silence we had. Thank You all."

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.

If you would like to comment on any of our Match Reports please email web.admin@acoxgangs.com

Visit our website at www.acoxgangs.com

Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ACOXgangs>