

Sunday, 21 august 2011
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

Friendly

Salvie Show 1st Division Class to Overcome Strong AC Side

Salvesen 7 AC Oxgangs 3

Half-Time 4-1

Scorers

James (2), Max

ACO Man of the Match

With this being the first game back the coaches have decided that the whole team has MOTM this week - with a good start to the game and a good second half everyone done their bit for the team. Well Done.

For their only pre-season friendly, ACO took on Salvesen BC, a team in the division above them, so this was likely to be a tough warm-up game!

For most of the first half there was very little difference between the teams. Both were passing the ball around well in midfield but were not managing to trouble either keeper, although an early Salvesen shot cannoned back off the post. Christopher was bossing the midfield and getting stuck into tackles well, and Zac was chasing down the ball and putting the Salvesen defence under pressure as soon as they got the ball. Gradually ACO were pushing forward more, and James fired in a good free kick that Zac just deflected wide. Max then sent in a cross from the left that nearly knocked Zac out as he tried to head it towards goal. It didn't affect him too much though as soon after he laid off the ball nicely to James who scored a great goal from a very narrow angle to put ACO ahead.

Salvesen then started to attack a lot more. Aaron had to palm a long shot round the post, and from the corner the ball fell kindly at his feet for him to pounce on. Then Salvesen broke quickly and Aaron made another good save and then Kieran cleared off the line. The ball was still in the box though and Aaron then pulled off a fantastic point-blank save. ACO quickly raced to the other end and Zac had a good chance that went wide.

ACO were now under a lot of pressure but managed to inch up the pitch with a series of throw-ins and then won a corner. Max sent in a great ball, but Salvesen broke quickly and scored an equaliser. This opened the floodgates for the rest of the half, with another shot sneaking in off the post. Then Salvesen scored again from a free kick that Aaron saved, but the ball fell to an opponent in the box.

ACO regrouped a bit, and Liam made a series of great defensive tackles. Leo then pushed forwards and won a corner. Salvesen broke again though, and Christopher and Brodie had to track back to clear. Finally, just before half-time, a long shot from Salvesen from outside the box came through a crowd and into the net.

Half-Time: 4-1

In the second half, ACO started to be a bit tougher in their tackles and started with good pressure, but it was Salvesen that scored again with a high cross over Aaron that was knocked in at the far post. ACO bounced back

though, and James sent in a good cross to Leo who forced a corner. ACO had a lot of the ball around the Salvesen box, and eventually James managed to knock the ball in for a goal that ACO deserved. Unfortunately, Salvesen broke through the defence again to score.

ACO started to apply some more pressure, with James surging forwards, and the referee played a good advantage for ACO to pile forwards and win a series of corners. When Salvesen broke again, Brodie tracked his man back and made two great sliding tackles, timing them both perfectly. Eventually they managed to score another though to put them 7-2 ahead.

The last few minutes were very end-to-end. James sent in a great cross that Kieran couldn't quite connect with as he arrived in the box, and Kieran then sent in a long throw to Aaron H who fired just wide. At the other end, Cillian had to make a great blocking tackle when he was the last man defending, before rushing across to make another great block on the next attack. Aaron H then sent a good through ball to Zac but the keeper just got there first. Finally Max ran forward with the ball and despite everyone thinking he would never shoot, he finally fired it the ball to score another for ACO, just before the final whistle.

Full-Time: 7-3

Coaches Message:

Unlucky today. We started off very well, equal with Salvesen for the first 10 minutes. Passing the ball around well, considering it was our first game back, and we had only had one training session, we were pleased with the performance you all put in today. Just a couple of things to work on in training, and hopefully we'll get a better result next week. See you on 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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