

Sunday, 4th September 2011

Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

ACO DEFENCE STAYS STRONG TO SEE OUT 3-2 VICTORY

Longniddry Villa *Blacks* 2 AC Oxfords 3

Half-Time 0-2

Scorers

James, Christopher, Aaron H

ACO Man of the Match

With such a tight game everyone had to be at their best. Another hard choice, but today's MOTM is Aaron H. For putting in important tackles when needed, playing passes when needed and rounding it off with the winning goal. Well Done.

ACO faced another newly-promoted side in this fixture against Longniddry, as well as some changes to the usual rules they were used to, such as kick-ins instead of throw-ins, and no retreating line when bringing the ball out from the goalkeeper.

ACO started brightly with some good running by Leo up front, but it was Longniddry who had the first chance, somehow managing to miss an open goal after breaking into the box. ACO kept forcing Longniddry to the by-lines, making shots harder, and Cillian got in a good block from one shot. Then Liam and Cillian had to combine to break down another attack and win a goal kick. At the other end James sent in a ball to Christopher in the box, but he was closed down very quickly. Then Liam sent a ball to Christopher who sent the ball down the line to Leo, but there was no-one on the end of his great cross into the box. Then Christopher powered into the box along the right and Leo and James were queuing up to knock the ball into the net, but it was James who got there first to give ACO the lead. They nearly doubled their lead when James' dangerous cross was nearly headed into his own net by the Longniddry defender.

Longniddry were being restricted to a number of shots from the by-line, but Aaron was coping well with these and knocking them behind. ACO then broke quickly and James sent in another great ball to Leo in the box but the ball bounced unkindly for him, but the ball came back to James who forced a good save from the keeper. Then Leo chased down the ball and passed to Christopher, and he ran into the box, turned, and finished neatly past the keeper.

Longniddry then started to put on some pressure but Aaron dealt comfortably with all the shots that came at him before the half-time whistle.

Half-Time: 0-2

Immediately from the kick-off, Longniddry pulled a goal back with a quick break through the ACO defence. ACO were struggling to clear the ball with the defenders receiving the ball on the goal line and being immediately closed down because of the lack of retreating line. ACO were lucky not to concede again when Longniddry missed another open goal.

ACO then produced the best move of the match when Kieran received the ball from Aaron and sent the ball to Aaron H. He quickly sent the ball up to Zac who laid the ball off to Christopher, and he sent a great through ball to Max who had time to pick his spot, but his shot went agonisingly wide of the post. ACO then had to defend, and it was Max who was back to clear the ball and set up another quick break, but Longniddry managed to scramble the ball clear. ACO then showed some more great play, with everyone passing and calling for the ball. Max had a shot that was headed for the top corner but the keeper produced a strong hand to save it, then Kieran won the ball back and stormed forward through a few tackles, and Max dropped back to cover in defence.

ACO won another corner and Zac saw his header go just wide. Max then sent in another great cross and the ball broke to Aaron H who rounded one defender before knocking the ball in. Max then sent a long ball down the line to Zac who skilfully turned his marker and was unlucky to lose the ball in the box.

Longniddry pushed forward again, and Liam had to clear with some tough tackling. Then ACO struggled with a lot of high balls bouncing in the box but fortunately the resulting shot sailed over the bar. Longniddry then hit the inside of the post and the ball rolled across the face of the goal before being cleared. Eventually the pressure paid off when ACO failed to clear from a goal kick and Longniddry pounced to pull another goal back.

ACO attacked again, and James sent the ball forward to Zac who sent a great ball across the face of the goal, but just too far in front of Max. This was the final move of the match, and the ref blew for full time. A difficult fixture, but some excellent passages of play from ACO to get the result.

Full-Time: 2-3

Penalty shoot out: There was time at the end for a quick penalty shoot out, and ACO triumphed 4-2 with some excellent finishing, and a couple of great saves from Aaron!

Coaches Message:

Got away with a positive result today. Defence a little dangerous at times, difficult with no safety zone or retreating line, all 3 goals were good team goals, passing moves and excellent finishing. Needing to work on a lot of things at training including communication!!! Well done though, another good result and performance.

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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