

Sunday, 11th September 2011
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ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

ACO Turn Up the Style at a ‘Very Windy’ CMP

AC Oxgangs 8 Musselburgh Windsor Colts 4

Half-Time 6-1

Scorers

Leo, Zac (3), James (3), Own Goal

ACO Man of the Match

Today's MOTM was always going to be hard with a winning team. Although on today's performance, one player ran the show for ACO today, and that player is today's MOTM. Christopher controlled the pace of the game, broke up ball, always working hard to get up and down the pitch, and creating opportunities for others instead of just shooting himself. Well Done.

After two wins in their last two games against newly-promoted teams, ACO now faced a team that had beaten them 7-1 in their previous meeting a year ago, so this would be a good measure of their progress.

ACO started very positively with some good running from Zac up front. Leo was unlucky to see a glancing header from James' cross go just wide, and then Zac just missed a diving header from James' wind-assisted corner. James and Kieran played a nice one-two along the left before Christopher sent the ball through to Zac in the box, but the Musselburgh defender managed to get in a tackle at the last minute. Then Leo pounced on a Musselburgh throw-in and ran through the defence before finishing well to give ACO the lead.

ACO continued to pressure their opponents and Leo won another ball and sent a pass through the defence to Zac. The ball was a bit too far ahead of him, but the keeper spilled the ball and Zac was on hand to bundle the ball home. Musselburgh then started to attack a bit, and Liam was very calm collecting the ball in his own box before clearing. Then Musselburgh hit a good long shot that Aaron had to push round the post. ACO countered quickly, and James had a shot cleared, then Christopher dribbled into the box but couldn't get a shot away.

By now ACO were in full flow, with everyone moving and calling for the ball, and there were some great passages of play in the middle of the park. ACO were also hassling their opponents whenever they had the ball, and some good persistent tackling won the ball back and Zac lifted the ball over the keeper to make it 3-0. Again Musselburgh tried to attack and first Kieran, and then Liam had to clear from within their own box. This left Musselburgh light in defence and Christopher sent a good ball through to Zac who had to stretch to get the ball but managed to knock it past the keeper to complete his hat-trick.

Musselburgh then pulled a goal back against the run of play when ACO couldn't clear the ball and their forward raced through to finish well past Aaron. There was some more neat passing from ACO up the pitch, but Christopher's long shot was collected comfortably by the keeper. Then Christopher made another good run and passed to Zac but the keeper made a good save. The ball bounced out to James who sent in a great shot to score

his first of the day. ACO had a couple more chances from Zac and Leo that forced the keeper to make good saves. Then Liam sent a long throw to James and he scored with another long shot into the bottom corner.

Half-Time: 6-1

ACO continued their good form at the beginning of the second half, and James tried another long shot, this one creeping through the keeper's legs for his hat-trick. ACO continued to attack, but Musselburgh were now more organised and first James, then Aaron H had efforts cleared. Musselburgh pushed forward a bit more, and Aaron had to collect a difficult high ball, then Brodie had to clear calmly with a nice pass to James. Aaron H was unlucky in the box when his shot crept round the post, then seconds later saw another shot go just wide. Musselburgh were hoofing the ball clear, and Brodie and Cillian dealt well with difficult high balls in the windy conditions. Musselburgh were now pushing forward more and Cillian forced their attacker wide, then Brodie had to do the same on the right. Aaron started a quick break to James, then Christopher, but he was forced too wide round the keeper to get a shot in.

ACO then won three corners in a row, and James' third bounced off a defender's knee into the net to put ACO 8-1 ahead. ACO then seemed to switch off for the last 5 minutes of the match, and allowed Musselburgh to score 3 goals in quick succession. Musselburgh won the ball in midfield and sent a great pass through the ACO defence and their forward knocked the ball past Aaron. Kieran then sent a ball along the line to James who chased it down and ran into the box but his shot was cleared off the line to Kieran who then had his shot cleared off the line as well. Musselburgh broke quickly before ACO could get back and scored with a looping shot that looked like it was going over but dipped in at the last moment. They then had another great chance but somehow scooped the ball over the bar from a few feet out. Finally, ACO gave the ball away in midfield again and Musselburgh scored again, but it was too late as ACO had built up too much of a lead. A convincing win with some excellent ACO play.

Full-Time: 8-4

Coaches Message:

What a performance!! Honestly it was a pleasure to watch. Some of the passing, shooting, turns, flicks, communication. Exactly what we have been wanting for weeks. Proved today that we can compete with the bigger clubs in our league. More hard work on Thursday to keep this run going, tricky away match on Sunday. See you Thursday.

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