

Sunday, 9th October 2011
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ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

True Game of Two Halves as ACO Come From 3 Behind to Win Again

AC Oxgangs 7 Bonnyrigg Rose 3

Half-Time 0-2

Scorers

James(2), Zac(3), Max, Leo

ACO Man of the Match

Today's MOTM was another tough one, it was going to take a big performance again this week, just like other weeks as players begin to step up their game. This week's MOTM is...Again... for the second week running, Aaron. With the saves made in the first half, keeping the score to only 2, also with a help from his defence. Then early in the second half, Aaron stepped up to the challenge and kept ACO in the game.

ACO have never lost a match against any of the Bonnyrigg teams, so they should have been full of confidence going into this match against Bonnyrigg Rose FC.

However, things didn't go their way in a difficult first half at a very windy CMP. Bonnyrigg started well, firing a cross right across the face of the ACO goal, and then Kieran and Brodie had to combine to clear. Then a long shot bounced awkwardly in front of Aaron and he had to scramble the ball away. Aaron had to make a few brave saves, diving at his opponents' feet, as well as one unorthodox save where he sat on the ball to stop it going in the net! ACO were making some progress down the left with some good passing play, but the wind and wet surface were making it hard to control the ball.

Again Aaron had to make another good save, and a quick clearance sent the ball to Leo who found Zac but the ball just ran away from him down the slope. Christopher then started a great run and then passed to Zac in the box but his shot was saved. At the other end, another high ball caused problems in the ACO box, but Brodie tidied up well and cleared, but the ball soon came back in after ACO lost possession just outside the box, and a good finish past Aaron put the visitors ahead. Almost immediately ACO lost the ball again near the left wing and the Bonnyrigg cross sailed over Aaron into the net for a slightly lucky goal.

Bonnyrigg continued to press, and Max was back in the box to block, then a great long clearance by Kieran sent Zac free but the Bonnyrigg defence got back just in time to tackle him. Zac had another shot saved, and then Kieran and Christopher combined with some nice short passes up the pitch. A quick throw to Zac almost paid off but his shot went just wide.

Half-time: 0-2

The coaches' half-time talk seemed to work wonders, as ACO started the second half well, with Leo sending a great pass to Zac, and he forced a good save from the keeper. Then Liam sent a long ball up to Leo and he passed to Christopher who was fouled on the edge of the area. From the free kick Zac had a shot that just went

wide. However it was Bonnyrigg who got the next goal when ACO lost possession in defence and the forward made a strong run into the box and finished.

ACO responded immediately with Zac racing through the middle. His shot was saved but James picked the ball up on the byline and showed great control before finishing from an impossibly narrow angle at the near post. Zac then nearly scored after a mistake by the Bonnyrigg defence, and then closed down a defender to steal the ball and finish well to grab another goal back for ACO.

Now ACO were brimming with confidence. James' long cross came off the crossbar, and Christopher scuffed a follow-up shot, but the ball bounced kindly for Zac in front of the goal, and he scored with a great overhead kick to equalise. Bonnyrigg tried to attack, but Liam came across to block and then sent a great ball to Leo on the right, and he sent a cross right through the box but no-one could get the final touch. Then James picked up the ball in midfield and sent the ball through to Zac who grabbed his hat-trick with a cool finish. James had a shot deflected for a corner, and then set up another goal with a pass into the box to Max. He mis-hit his first shot but the ball came back to him and this time he made sure with a nice finish to the far corner.

Again Bonnyrigg edged forwards but Cillian was there with a great block. Then ACO won a free kick in defence and Liam sent a huge cross-field ball to Max. He sent the ball in to Aaron H in the box who turned well and was unlucky to see his shot go just wide. Liam then sent another long ball up to James, and he out-ran the defence and finished neatly to the far post. ACO then scored again when Bonnyrigg lost the ball near the retreating line and Leo raced free to slot the ball home.

In the last few minutes Bonnyrigg started to edge forwards again. Aaron had to make a rare second-half save, and then Cillian controlled the ball well before setting James clear on the left. He tried to chip the keeper but he managed to scramble back to save on the line. In the last move of the match Bonnyrigg piled forwards and Cillian had to make three blocks in a row before clearing, and the final whistle went. Truly a game of two halves!

Full-time: 7-3

Coaches Message:

Well, where to start, as said above, truly a game of two halves. Began the game slow, never really settled into it. We were still asleep coming off at half time. Second half was more like an ACO performance. Passing the ball quicker, working as a team, using our skilful ability, and getting our shots on target. Good win today, keeps our confidence up and hopefully we can take that into the next game. Well Done. See you Thursday.

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