

Sunday, 13th November 2011
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

Quick Start for AC Doesn't Pay Off As Spartans Show AC How To Finish

Spartans 10 – 3 Ac Oxfangs

Half-Time 7-2

Scorers

Zac, Christopher (2)

ACO Man of the Match.

Today's MOTM was Christopher, with breaking up attacks in the midfield and then beginning our own, Christopher should great team spirit to fight for the ball and for the team. Well Done.

After a bad recent run of results, ACO were itching to get back to winning ways in an early start against Spartans, a team they had beaten comfortably in their last meeting.

Everything started according to plan, when Zac nicked a ball straight from the kick-off and calmly slotted the ball home through the keeper's legs for an early lead. However, this woke Spartans up and they raced to the other end to win a corner after a good tackle from Cillian. The corner came straight into the ACO box and was bundled in for the equaliser.

Max then found some space to make a good run down the left and sent a long ball over the top to Zac, whose shot was saved for a corner. Max took a short corner to Kieran who fired in a good cross into the danger area, but Spartans cleared with a good strong header. Liam then cleared the ball back out to Zac, and the defender had to make a panicked clearance to get the ball away.

At the other end Spartans won a corner that Cillian cleared but the ball came straight back in with a great shot to the top corner to give Spartans the lead. All the pressure was coming from the home team now, and Zac had to track right back to concede a corner. Again Cillian got in a good headed clearance, but the ball came straight back in again and it was the Spartans player who got a foot to it to knock it past Aaron.

From the kick off Spartans won the ball again, and Aaron had to pounce bravely onto the ball in the box, but ACO lost the ball at the retreating line and another long shot left Aaron with no chance. ACO managed an attack when Zac made a good run into the box, but Spartans got the ball away and managed to win another corner. The corner was fired into the danger area and the Spartans' player ran in to score with a powerful header.

ACO started to put some better passing moves together, and Kieran sent a good ball up to Zac, then another good move between Kieran, Christopher, Max and Leo worked the ball up for a corner. However, Spartans cleared with another strong header and raced up the pitch and scored another goal. Almost immediately ACO lost the ball again outside the box and a soft deflected shot left Aaron wrong-footed and Spartans were now 7-1 ahead.

Spartans had another great chance, but Aaron needed to make a good double save, then set up a quick break, but the ball just ran away from Christopher as he got near the goal line. ACO finished the half strongly, and Kieran and Aaron H worked the ball down the right to Zac, whose cross into the box was bundled in by Christopher to give ACO a lifeline just before half time.

Half time: 7-2

The second half was much more evenly matched. James skillfully controlled a high ball and slotted a pass through to Aaron H, but the keeper managed to clear. Spartans attacked and Brodie had to make two good stops in the box before calmly clearing to Christopher, but Spartans sent a long ball over the top and their forward fired in another shot to the top corner.

Soon after, Spartans won another corner after a good tackle from Cillian. Aaron knocked the cross away, but somehow the Spartans players bundled the ball in for another goal. ACO responded positively, and James sent a great pass into the box for Max to challenge the keeper, but it went out for a corner. Although Spartans tried to break quickly from the corner, Cillian blocked them and sent the ball back to James who sent a great pass to Aaron H, and ACO won another corner. Max seemed to have turned the ball in from the cross, but Spartans made a great goal-line clearance.

ACO were doing well along the right wing, and James sent in a couple of great crosses towards Aaron H, but Spartans broke again and forced another good save from Aaron to concede a corner. Again, Spartans scored with a great header in the box from the cross. ACO grabbed one straight back from the kick off with a long shot from Christopher deflected past the keeper.

ACO finished the match well, but couldn't grab any more goals. James sent another great cross into Aaron H that the keeper cleared, and then James looked certain to score when one-on-one with the keeper, but was stopped by a great last-ditch tackle. Christopher and James both had shots saved, then a long shot from James was fumbled by the keeper and nearly went in. Finally the ball was cleared to Liam, who sent in a long looping shot from near the half-way line, but it sailed over the bar.

Full time: 10-3

Coaches Message:

Unlucky today, started with a great, quick movement combined with skill, 1-0 up in seconds, unlucky that it set Spartans off. Need to learn to close the ball down (press the ball). Need to be stronger when fighting to win the ball, not being dirty, but being fair and physical at the same time. Unlucky today. See you Thursday.

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