

**Sunday, 04 March 2012**  
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

**ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division**

# **Brilliant Finishing Gives AC The Perfect Start To The Season**

**AC Oxgangs *Blacks* ... 7 Star 'A' CYP ... 4**

**Half-Time: 3-1**

## **Scorers**

James (4), Pablo (2), Brodie

## **ACO Man of the Match.**

With this being the first game of the season after expanding the team, no-one was sure how the boys were going to react. Coaches were extremely pleased at the way they linked up and the new boys settled in well and were made very welcome. This week we have given the whole team MOTM. Well Done.

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The start of a new season for ACO, and with the old squad now expanded into two teams, the new "Blacks" squad took on newly promoted Star A CYP. It was a chance for three new players - Brandon, Pablo and Ross - to make their ACO debuts.

ACO started brightly - the winter Futsal had definitely kept players sharp - and there were some nice passing moves around the pitch. Star A won a free kick just outside their own box, and James anticipated well to intercept the pass and fire a shot back in to give ACO an early lead. Star A posed a threat going forwards, and Brandon and Kieran combined well to clear the ball out to Max. James then found Brodie in the box, and he finished well to double ACO's lead.

ACO were showing some really confident passing, especially between James, Brodie and Max up front. In defence, Brandon was in quickly to make a great clearance, and then James tracked his opponent right back to the ACO goal line to concede a corner. There was some panic in the ACO box from the corner, before Kieran sent a huge clearance up to James, who was only denied another goal by a great tackle. ACO were now piling on the pressure. Pablo sent a great ball in to Aaron H, then James had a shot go just wide. Max sent over a dangerous corner that Pablo nearly bundled in to the net, then James sent a cross along the goal line that was just out of Max's reach. Eventually the pressure paid off and James pounced on a poor pass across the Star A box to put ACO 3-0 up.

The ACO defence had let very little through, so Aaron had not had much to do, but he was out quickly to pounce on a loose ball in the box. Then Star A grabbed a goal back just before half time when a dangerous corner deflected off an ACO player past him into the net.

**Half-Time: 3-1**

Star A attacked straight from the kick-off, and Brandon made a great stop in midfield to clear up the pitch. With throw-ins replaced by kick-ins this season, Kieran couldn't send his usual long throw up the line, but instead sent an accurate kick-in through to James in the box who rounded a defender and slotted home for his hat-trick.

Star A then found their stride, and Aaron had to make a good save to turn a shot round the post. Then Ross made a good block, allowing Brodie to clear. Then Star A grabbed two quick goals. The first was a great solo run the full length of the pitch. The second was a quick break, and despite a good save from Aaron, the rebound was poked in.

This seemed to spur ACO on again, and James and Pablo were striking up a good partnership on the right. Max sent over another good corner that was cleared out towards Kieran, but his shot went over the bar. Then Aaron injured himself diving for a ball, and Kieran had to take over in goals for the rest of the game. Kieran immediately threw a long, accurate ball out to Max on the wing who sent in a fantastic pass for James to run on to, and then slot home for his fourth goal of the match.

ACO quickly grabbed another when Max found Aaron H in the box. His shot went through the defender's legs, and Pablo instinctively stuck out his leg to deflect the ball past the keeper. Kieran was then called into action to clear a through ball with his feet, then Pablo managed to clear off the line when Kieran was beaten by a cross. Both teams were taking advantage of the new rule of no retreating line, and James closed down a goal kick quickly, only to see his shot deflected wide. Then Star A closed down an ACO clearance to score and close the gap a little.

However, it was too late to make a difference, and ACO grabbed one more just before the final whistle when James sent in a great cross into the box, and Pablo finished with a neat touch for his second of the game.

**Full-Time: 7-4**

**Coaches Message:**

A very good start to the season, some lovely link-up play when moving the ball up field, not afraid to get into a 1v1 situation and try and take the player on. Good shooting today, finished well and defending well. Brandon, Ross and Pablo, well done on your debut - you settled well into the squad and hopefully keep on improving in training and become more skilful players. Well Done.

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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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