

Sunday, 11 March 2012
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

Screamer From Aaron Seals First Victory Of The Season

AC Oxgangs *Blues* ... 3 Edinburgh City *Whites* ... 2

Half-Time 0-1

Scorers

Aaron H (2), Christopher

ACO Man of the Match

With only 7 players today the boys had to stand up and be counted. Everyone played their part, although there was one stand out performance - Aaron H, playing in a different position further up the field as a striker, showed some great strength, determination and skill when needed. Working hard all around the pitch this is well deserved for Aaron H. He even managed to grab himself two goals, which we are hearing that the second was a screamer.

With four players missing across the two ACO squads, the ACO Blues were down to the bare minimum of seven players this week in their first meeting with Edinburgh City Whites.

ACO started on the front foot, with some good interchanges between Christopher, Pablo and Aaron H along the right wing. The front four were keeping possession well but couldn't get a clear sight of goal to begin with. Then, Sean sent a great pass through to Christopher who managed to slot the ball through to Aaron H in the box, but he was denied by a well-timed sliding tackle. Then Shaun made a solo run down the left wing and along the byline but his shot cannoned back off the post. Soon after Sean had another great chance after some good work from Christopher and Aaron H, but his shot trickled just wide.

With all the possession ACO had up front, Cillian, Michael and Kieran did not have a lot to do at first, but eventually Edinburgh City started to threaten more. Kieran got down well to save one shot, then Michael needed to make a great sliding tackle in the box, allowing Cillian to clear the ball. ACO pushed forwards again, but suddenly Edinburgh City found a gap through the middle and raced through and scored, slightly against the run of play.

ACO responded well, and finished the half strongly, but couldn't find that elusive equaliser. Sean put in a series of dangerous wind-assisted corners from the left, but the ball just refused to go in the net. A very close first half and ACO could consider themselves unlucky to be trailing at half time.

Half-Time: 0-1

The second half started much like the first, with ACO dominating possession and Sean was again unlucky not to score after a great pass from Aaron H. Finally all the pressure paid off, with a fantastic passing move from end-to-end between Pablo, Christopher, Sean and finally Aaron H who tapped home a deserved equaliser.

Edinburgh City then pushed forwards again, causing panic in the ACO box before Cillian cleared. Then Michael had to make another good stop in the box, before Kieran made a great save. Kieran then found Aaron H up front with a huge throw that bypassed almost everyone, and Aaron H powered upfield to win a corner. The corner bounced back out to Aaron H outside the box who sent back in a stunning shot to put ACO in front.

Their lead was short-lived though. Michael made another good stop to concede a corner, but nobody from ACO closed down the short corner, allowing the Edinburgh City player loads of time to tee up a shot over everyone into the top corner.

To their credit, none of the ACO heads dropped after losing the lead so late in the game, and they raced up the pitch and piled on the pressure for the last few minutes. Then Christopher pounced on a defensive slip in the box and tucked the ball home for a dramatic late winner for ACO.

Full-Time: 3-2

A great result, and fantastic performance, and some very tired legs by the end of the game!

Coaches Message:

Very well done today boys. There was some excellent communication from everyone and some very good passing football from the four boys going forward. Good concentration from the boys at the back, with not a lot to do at times, you performed brilliant today. Things to work on in training, including shooting and first touch. Well done today and hope to continue our improvement next week.

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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