

FRY CLUB COLTS U13 MATCH REPORT

Number 2

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Chinese proverb: "Many misses make hard work"

CHANCES GO BEGGING DESPITE 3-0 WIN

Although Colts eventually ran out winners we wasted some glorious chances to add to our goals for tally, and the result was not cut and dried until the dying minutes of the match.

Colts lined up in their customary 4-4-2 formation:

Sam Johnson; Mark Webb, Jason McCrossan, Tom Hamblin, Phil Knight; Dan Payne, Craig Palmer, Colin Stallard, Ian Field; Gareth Smith, Jay Beale.

Substitutes: Ashley Rowe, James Williams.

Rangers looked like they were going to cause problems as they mounted the first attacks of the match. However, we broke these up comfortably and when Colin released Dan with an excellent crossfield ball, he charged through in the inside right position to win our first corner. Craig took it from the right and their 'keeper clutched Colin's header just under the bar. Our early movement was mostly down the right flank and a glorious through ball from Craig again found Dan galloping down the right, but a Rangers' defender covered well.

With eight minutes gone Tom pumped a 30-yard free kick, following a foul on Colin, over the top. Next it was Gareth's turn to advance but the 'keeper came out to make a good save and when the ball was cleared out wide on the left Jay leathered the ball back goalwards, only for the 'keeper to palm it round the post.

The rain started to come down by the bucketful, but this didn't affect the quality of some of our play. Ian attacked down the left

and Gareth laid the ball back for Jay to blast over.

A quick break down our right nearly caught us napping but Jason got back to cut out the cross and Sam safely gathered the corner at his near post.

We were doing most of the attacking, however, and a crossfield pass from Ian found the unmarked Dan lurking on the edge of the penalty area. Unfortunately, his rising drive was fractionally too close to the 'keeper, who palmed it to safety.

Craig's right wing corner was headed back to the far post where Phil stretched but was unable to direct his shot on target.

Frampton responded with a 35-yard free kick that was well struck, but Sam moved smartly to safely field it. The play moved back upfield, and Colin and Dan combined for Dan to hit over a super cross that Jay stooped to meet, but somehow missed it.

Another right wing cross from Dan found Gareth who was unable to control it with just the 'keeper to beat.

With twenty minutes of the half gone and our defence looking strong, and the midfield bossing the game we should have been several goals to the good, As it was it took a defender to put us in front. Tom went up for Craig's corner and met the ball cleanly at the near post to head the ball past the 'keeper.

Two minutes later and a 30-yard shot was firmly hit by Craig, but no one was far enough forward to take advantage when the 'keeper spilled it. Dan then blasted another shot wide from Colin's over the top through ball. Jay then ran through and had the chance to slide the ball past the advancing 'keeper but elected to go round him and was foiled by a combination of the 'keeper and two defenders.

A corner on the left was then headed out to the edge of the penalty area where Mark turned it back in, just wide of the far post.

With half an hour gone, Mark went off with a foot injury and Ashley slotted in at right back. Another left wing corner from Craig was cleared back to him and a better cross to the far post was headed goalwards by Jay, only for the 'keeper to save.

It was then Colin's turn to be denied as his header from a right wing corner was blocked on the line and then his follow-up shot was diverted for a corner.

HALF TIME : COLTS 1 RANGERS 0

Colts kicked off the second half with Ian at right back and Ashley wide on the left. Straight away we moved onto the attack, and a good ball from Jay across the face of the goal eluded both Gareth and Dan. Then Phil had the chance of a shot, but Ashley got in his way, and the ball was put out for a corner, Rangers managing to eventually clear from the resultant goalmouth melee.

Five minutes gone and a good ball from Tom through to Dan allowed him to break in to the box where his powerful shot was pushed round the far post by the 'keeper. Jay's persistence then rewarded him with the chance to advance on goal, and though pushed wide he was able to get in a shot that was cleared off the line.

Rangers were coming back, however, as we attempted to run with the ball too often, or play adventurous balls that came to nothing, We'd stopped getting the ball out wide and got bogged down in the centre of midfield. At one stage Craig and Colin were playing so close together in midfield I thought they were holding hands!

With a quarter of an hour of the half gone we were almost caught out as a ball from our right was hit over the defence but, fortunately, was sliced wide by the attacker.

We needed a spark of inspiration, and this was provided by our Club Secretary, Mike Richards (who had only watched whilst the rain had stopped), moving off elsewhere.

We responded with a shot from Jay, following passes from Phil and Colin that was just wide. However, he was not to be denied for long, and after eighteen minutes a "Garyowen" was misjudged by the Rangers' 'keeper and Jay had the simple task of tapping it into the empty net to make it 2-0.

Jay was foiled again when the 'keeper bravely dived at his feet to prevent him reaching a long through ball from Tom. Jay then got his feet in a tangle as Dan centred, following an excellent run down the right wing.

Gareth then fought doggedly on the right to win the ball before setting up a shot for Craig that went narrowly wide.

A good break by Rangers, as we backed off, allowed a shot from 35 yards that dipped just over the bar.

James came on to replace Gareth after twenty-five minutes, and just afterwards Colin jinked past two players only to see his shot acrobatically turned round the post by the 'keeper. Another good cross from Dan evaded the 'keeper but, again, Jay was just unable to apply the finishing touch.

Frampton almost struck back and Sam had to be on his toes to push a shot round the post for a corner. A minute later and, Sam elected to fly hack a clearance only to miss and see the ball rebound back from the post. Panic stations for a moment, but the ball was cleared.

With the game heading towards full time, Phil picked the ball up on the left and passed to Colin whose ball was crashed low and hard across the 'keeper and in to the far corner of the net by Dan to make the score 3-0.

FULL TIME: COLTS 3 RANGERS 0

Results			
Christchurch	2	Eastwood Boys	2
Henbury OB Colts	1	St Annes Rangers	4
Fry Club Colts	3	Frampton Rangers	0
Shirehampton Colts	3	St Nicholas	1
Stapleton Juniors	4	Warmley Rangers	2
North Bristol Colts	7	Coalpit Heath	0

PS Sorry for miss-spelling your name in last week's report, Gareth - blame Andy.