

FRY CLUB COLTS U13 MATCH REPORT

Number 8

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Out thought, out fought, and out of the Cup

Frampton capitalise on Colts thoroughly poor performance

The weather started of fair and then deteriorated. Unfortunately, so did we.

We did the early attacking – Craig passing out to Dan on the left but Jay did not control his centre in time to get a shot in. Ashley then nipped in front of the 'keeper to lift Tom's header goalwards, but just wide.

However, after five minutes Frampton started to get in to the game. Their centre forward who was fast and strong – like some others you'll meet in the stronger teams – broke down our left flank between Phil and Tom and got his shot in. Fortunately, as his boot came off, Sam caught the ball rather than the boot. It was an early warning that we did not heed.

Two minutes later and Phil was caught dwelling on the ball, was robbed of possession. When the ball came in from the wing the centre forward was unmarked and we were lucky to see his shot shave the post.

We replied with a 35-yard shot from a free kick by Tom, after Dan was fouled, that the 'keeper left – only for the ball to hit the foot of the post. Dan got the ball back across but Gareth's shot was weak and straight at the 'keeper.

With ten minutes gone, the Frampton centre forward broke through Tom's tackle evaded Phil's challenge and although Sam dived at his feet, he rounded him and shot over Nick who was on the goal line (0-1).

We then did something right! Phil won the ball and headed it to Craig who laid it back to Nick who sent a long pass down the wing for Gareth to chase and rifle past the advancing 'keeper (1-1).

A minute later and Dan picked up the ball just outside the penalty area, weaved his way between two defenders and slotted the ball past the 'keeper (2-1).

Fifteen minutes gone and Jay received the ball in a little bit of space just outside the area and whacked the ball home (3-1).

With three goals conceded within five minutes of taking the lead, this is where Frampton could have collapsed. Instead, their commitment intensified, they continued to pass the ball around, had come to grips with our long ball tactics, and were winning most of the ball in midfield.

Although Nick got forward and tried to get in on the scoring with a shot from out on the by-line – spotting the 'keeper off his line – it was over the bar.

Frampton too had an effort just over the bar as their centre forward, with his back to goal, turned and lifted his shot a shade too high.

Our football was not at all fluent as Craig and Colin were outpaced to the loose balls in midfield and either dwelt to long on the ball and were dispossessed, or hurried their passes and misplaced them.

A shot-come-centre by Dan was just past the far post and evaded Gareth's lunge, but Frampton broke back and with almost half an hour gone -Phil, Sam and Tom got in a muddle at the foot of the post as the ball bobbled. Although Sam managed to block the first attempt the Frampton forward netted the second (3-2). Another cross in from the left saw Jason and Tom caught out of position. Fortunately, Ashley had tracked back and he and Nick contrived to clear the ball.

HALF TIME: COLTS 3 FRAMPTON 2

Three minutes in to the half and a foul on Colin following good work from Nick and Dan saw the 'keeper touch Tom's low free kick around the post.

Six minutes gone and the Frampton centre forward outpaced Jason through the middle and lifted his shot over Sam from the edge of the penalty area (3-3). It was clear at this stage that we were not:

- * Holding the ball up
- * Tracking back
- * Closing players down
- * Marking tightly
- * Keeping our shape
- * Communicating with each other
- * Supporting each other
- * Moving off the ball
- * Thinking and looking before passing
- * Passing accurately

I think that these ten points should be enough to give you food for thought – for starters at least.

Andy reacted by taking off Ashley and Colin, and bringing on Ian wide on the left and Mark at right back. Nick pushed up wide on the right and Dan moved inside.

There was no sign of improvement in our play though, and after fifteen minutes Phil – probably frustrated today by his inability to pass the ball to anyone on his side – hacked at the ball and missed it completely. This left his opponent free to make tracks down the wing and centre. Poor marking allowed another free shot to make it 3-4.

By this time we'd lost the plot. Our forwards were being held in check by the Frampton defence who had by now reverted to a back three – no doubt confident that they would be able to cope with our front two. Meanwhile our midfield was not giving our defence too much protection. Even so, our fab four at the back couldn't cope with their two forwards.

Twenty-five minutes gone and Frampton again broke through the middle to give themselves a two goal lead (3-5).

Three minutes later and Sam missed a cross from the left and the forward at the far post didn't (3-6).

We did create a couple of more chances prior to the match finishing – but the finishing was not as clinical as Frampton's. Gareth shot straight at the 'keeper, and when Jay's shot was spilled by the 'keeper he reacted quickly to save Gareth's follow-up.

FULL TIME: COLTS 3 FRAMPTON 6

The team – or the collection of players masquerading as one was:

	Sam Johnson	
Tom Hamblin	Jason McCrossan	
Nick Guest		Phil Knight
	Colin Stallard	Craig Palmer
Ashley Rowe		Dan Payne
	Gareth Smith	Jay Beale

Substitutes: Ian Field (Ashley Rowe, 41), Mark Webb (Colin Stallard, 41).

“Editorial...HOW GOOD ARE WE?”

Remember that piece – it was only two weeks ago that I wrote it. I made the point that good teams have the ability to vary their style of play. Today we didn't do that – we were predictable in what we were doing, and Frampton read us like a book after the first quarter of an hour.

Look at the Cup results. There are probably teams that have been knocked out but played to the best of their ability. Others will say that they were unlucky. You can't use either excuse. You were beaten by a team that played better than you did on the day.

I pointed out how well you can play – today you didn't, individually and certainly not collectively.

If you play this badly in league games you will lose those as well. If you aspire to win the league then you can't afford to play like this. You might not have gone on to win the Cup – you might have reached the final though. Ask Dan and Phil what it was like to play on a ground like Mangotsfield United's in a cup final. It's an opportunity gone for another year. So to is the opportunity to play against teams from the First Division – to see how you would measure up.

Players can't always play at the peak of their ability. When you aren't, that's when you have to roll your sleeves up and work harder – support and encourage each other – not stand back and watch as things deteriorate. This was the first time you've played badly. You lost to a team that you should have beaten – and have done already this season. I hope you feel disappointed. I hope that it hurts. I don't mean that nastily. If you do feel that way then it's a sign that you care – about your own performance and that of the team.

Andy told you after the game to put it behind you. Do that – but not until you've reflected on this performance. Retain the confidence you have in your ability. You are good players – it's just that today you were pants.

PS One of Stapleton's players was spying on us today. What do you think he'll be telling them after seeing this display?

Training.....

I've mentioned it before, I know, and I probably will again before the end of season. For now though all I'm going to say is that Andy has been pleased with the increase in attendance – double figures last week (Gareth and Phil spotted night-clubbing – could be fines on the way!).

Anyway, as there is more than one way to skin a cat, and to save me writing so much, I thought that I'd include tips in future newsletters. They are produced from "Soccer Skills, Tactics and Teamwork" by the Football Association, and not dreamed up by me on the 5.52 to Paddington.

I hope you'll look at them, and find them useful. Mind you, I also hope you'll go to training as well!

TEAM FACTS

Appearances

(substitute appearances in brackets)

- 8 – Hamblin, Knight, Palmer, Smith;
- 7 – Johnson, Stallard (1), Webb (1);
- 6 – Beale (1), Rowe (1), McCrossan (1);
- 5 – Field (2), Guest (1), Payne (2);
- 3 – Kavanagh (2);
- (2) –Williams.

Goals

- 9 – Beale;
- 6 – Payne;
- 4 – Smith;
- 3 – Palmer;
- 2 – Field, Guest, Hamblin, Rowe, Stallard;
- 1 – McCrossan, o.g.

Fixtures

Sep	12	A	St Nicholas 'B'	4-1
	19	H	Frampton Rangers 'A'	3-0
	26	A	Shirehampton Colts	11-1
			(Cup – 1 st round)	
Oct	3	A	Warmley Rangers 'A'	2-0
	10	H	Coalpit Heath	3-1
	17	A	Eastwood Boys 'B'	5-0
	24	H	Christchurch	3-0
	31	H	Frampton Rangers 'A'	3-6
			(Cup – 2 nd round)	
Nov	7	A	North Bristol Colts	
	14	H	Stapleton Juniors	
	21	H	Henbury O B Colts 'B'	
	28	A	Shirehampton Colts	
Dec	5	H	St Annes Rangers	
	12	A	St Annes Rangers	
	19	H	St Nicholas 'B'	

CHRISTMAS BREAK

ANDY'S CHALLENGE – Remember?

The teams in the English FA Carling Premiership and the Nationwide League have between them 20 'end' names. Can you name them? Well – the closing date was last Sunday. The winner will be announced this Sunday. I'll be interested to know how many entered.

Reminder.....

CHRISTMAS DISCO

The U14s are holding a Christmas Disco in the Carter Room at Fry Club on Sunday 19th December 7.30 until midnight

U13s - Players, parents, family and friends are most welcome to join us. Andy will be there, but there will be no speeches and the disco (Steve Curtis) plays a wide range of music and will take requests.

Tickets are £2 for adults and £1 for children – available from Kerry Gooding or Graham Knight

2nd round – Cup results

Almondsbury	12	Deerswood	0
BOCO	0	St Nicholas 'A'	9
Christchurch	3	Castle Court	2
Eastwood 'A'	0	Avon Ath	10
Frampton 'B'	1	St Annes	12
Fry Club	3	Frampton 'A'	6
Patchway	0	Bitton 'A'	14
St Nicholas 'B'	8	Henbury 'A'	3
Thornbury	1	Whitchurch 'B'	2
Warmley 'A'	6	Stoke Ath 'B'	2
Warmley 'B'	0	St Vallier	1
Whitchurch 'A'	3	Bamfield	0

The remaining matches were presumably postponed, or their results weren't in.

TACTICS AND TIPS!

1 Key factors in defending

I know that sometimes I write, or Andy and Clive speak, about attackers, and midfielders, and defenders. However, when we as a team have the ball, you are all attacking. When we don't have the ball you should all be defending.

It is important that when we lose the ball every forward player should start to think defensively – that is they should be working to get the ball back.

Players are more likely to lose concentration when their team loses the ball than at any other time. Whether it is out of despair, frustration, disappointment or simply the mistaken notion that defending is not their department, players lose vital seconds and with them the opportunity to win the ball back immediately.

A player's first objective in defending is to restrict the time and space available to the attackers, putting them under pressure. Players put under pressure in this way – especially in their defending third of the pitch – often panic and give the ball away.

All players, whatever their position, should start pressuring as soon as possession is lost. It is just at this moment that that some players lose their concentration. Football, like most games, is often decided by mistakes,

and failure to concentrate is one of the main reasons why mistakes happen.

In maintaining concentration and putting on pressure, a defender has made the first step toward winning the ball back. An effective challenge is the next step. Before a player can challenge for the ball he must recover to a position at least level with the player with the ball, and preferably goalside of him. It is not possible to put a player under pressure from 5 or 10 metres away. The ball can still be played forward past a defender standing at that distance. About a metre and a half to two metres is about right – ensuring that the ball has to be played square or backwards.

A defender's best line of recovery will always be the shortest route back towards their own goal. Players on the flanks should follow a line back to their near post. Those in central positions should head towards the penalty spot.

There are three main mistakes players must guard against in making recovery runs:

1. Making the run too slowly or too late (or not at all!)
2. Recovering too far beyond the ball
3. Relaxing and allowing their concentration to lapse once goal-side of the ball

Once goal-side of the ball, a defender has five options:

- * **Challenge** the player with the ball
- * **Cover** a team-mate challenging the player with the ball
- * **Mark** an opponent in the area of the ball
- * **Occupy** important space goal-side of the ball
- * **Track** an opponent making a run to the back of the defence

If you're challenging for the ball then you have four options:

- * **Intercept** when a pass is intended
- * **Tackle** if you think you can win the ball
- * **Force** the attacker outside, away from the goal
- * **Force** the attacker inside towards other defenders

SO, HERE ENDETH THE FIRST LESSON.