



FRY CLUB COLTS

U12 MATCH REPORT U12

Number 21 You have no control over what the other guy does. You only have control over what you do. Sunday 19th April 2009

U12 MATCH REPORT U12 MATCH REPORT COALPIT HEATH 'A' V FRY CLUB COLTS U12 MATCH REPORT U12 MATCH REPORT

The second of the games without Sam, still in Mexico. This we felt was possibly going to be the hardest game of the season, even if we had Sam, going by what we saw in the first game. We had had a Sunday off due to Easter, but had worked hard in training on Friday. We elected to go with the same line-ups that had worked well for us against Bromley in the previous game. 15 seconds into the game Andy noticed that the batteries on the Dictaphone had gone, and he had no spares....

The line up was:

Joby
Dan Josh Aaron Joel
Spike
Jay Tom Max
Andy Joe

Substitute: Kallan

Early on a ball into their left back saw Jay chase and ride the tackle. He shot for the far corner, but scuffed it a bit and it rolled agonisingly wide. We quickly saw where their main threat was emanating from as their four most attacking players were all taller than ours, and in the case of two of them, quicker than ours, and they were hitting many balls over the top, luckily for us however they were mainly over-hit and Joby was able to either gather it or kick it clear. We made it hard for ourselves on many occasions in the first half by not doing the simple thing of heading the ball as it came past, allowing them to pressurise our goal. We were also not getting close enough to the opposition to mark them, and that was across the pitch most of the time. One such occasion led to a Coalpit player picking the ball up on the left about 25 yards out, cutting inside and unleashing a shot. Joby did well to get his hands to it, but it had too much power and went in **1-0**. It definitely rocked us as they upped their attacks and a ball down the left saw Joel try to cut it out, but he guessed the wrong way. Aaron & Josh raced wide, but couldn't get there, and the cross was looped into the far right corner **2-0**. At this point Andy was praying for half-time, and I'm pretty certain so was Dave, so that we could get them in, talk to them and reorganise, but there was still about 15 minutes of the half left! Another ball over the top saw Joby out to the edge of his area and get a hand to it to push it for a corner, the next saw him narrow the angle and force the shot wide of the right post. The next time followed in the same place, and the fourth saw him get down quickly and gather it. Each time we won it back, the ball was going forward, we would lose it by not passing quickly enough, or passing wayward of our team, and they would break quickly. Another dash down their left saw it bounce across the face of the goal, and their player just missed it! We did create chances of our own, and I would say that we put just as many balls into the danger area as they had shots, but we just didn't get close to enough of them. Andy wriggled free of his marker to see his shot deflect and get blocked, and a free-kick from Tom was miss-hit by a defender on the line, but bounced up into the arms of the 'keeper.

HALF-TIME: C/HEATH A 2 FRY S 0

Dave gave the team an absolute rocket at half-time, and to be fair I think that they needed it! It certainly did the trick. Kallan came in for Joe, who was struggling with blisters and we re-shaped, and that, coupled with closer

marking, stronger tackling, not letting the high balls bounce, and an all-round greater determination saw us the much more dangerous team.

Joby
Dan Josh Aaron Joel
Spike Kallan
Jay Tom Max
Andy

We attacked with a greater urgency and Jay's pressurising of the defender led to a corner. With Joe off and Sam away, it meant that Tom would take the corners and we would have few height attacking options, so Andy made a tactical switch and told Spike to take it. Apparently there was much muttering on the sidelines that he could never deliver from there, so I would like all of those disbelieving parents to eat their mutterings! Spike sailed one to the back post, it was hit back across and **Josh** reacted fastest to prod it into the net, for his first of the season (well done!) **2-1**. We were more determined now and a ball over the top from Aaron was misjudged by their defender and **Andy** was through. He was under pressure from two defenders, but he held them off and chipped it over the stranded 'keeper **2-2**. Our tails were firmly up and an attack down the right led to a free-kick 35 yards away. Tom felt it was too far for a shot, so Andy told Spike to take it. It was flicked on by Tom, and both Max & Andy dived for it, but it was just too far ahead. A similar thing happened two minutes later, but Andy asked Tom if he felt he could make it, and being five yards closer he said yes! With the words "get it on target and make the 'keeper work" ringing in his ears, **Tom** swung one in, dead centre, just under the bar **2-3**. Not long to go and we were looking a lot better, but we knew the danger was still there. They attacked down the right and we had to concede a throw. It came at two defenders, they left it for each other, and it bounced up at Kallan's chest, but his arms were high, they appealed, and the ref pointed to the spot. I couldn't argue, because as a referee, I would have also given it. Their attacker drilled it low just to Joby's left and he simply couldn't get down quick enough **3-3**. There was some more hard tackling in the middle, but that was that.

FULL-TIME: C/HEATH A 3 FRY S 3

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy & Dave for excellent play and effort – Joby

Afterthoughts.....

It was a thoroughly entertaining game, especially the second half. They had four attacking players bigger than anyone in our team, and all with pace to spare, as many balls over the top showed. That said, when analysed, their three goals came from a long shot, a header from a cross and a penalty, although to be fair to Joby, they created many chances through pace, all of which saw him do enough. It shouldn't however need a half-time rocket to get our team playing well enough to win this game. We were good enough already, but I felt after their first goal had come (after we had created at least three good chances) that our team lost a bit of belief, which is why I was shouting that to them as we got back into the game. For me, that was the hardest 11 v 11 game that we have had in this league, so well done to our boys for the great fight-back.