



FRY CLUB COLTS

U13 MATCH REPORT U13

Number 20 We must embrace pain and burn it as fuel for our journey. Sunday 7th March 2010

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BRISTOL ROVERS SUPPORTERS
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The deadline for signing new players had finally passed, and in the last few weeks we had brought in three players to help cope with the injury crisis. One of our new signings Jack had had an adverse reaction to his knees after training and so had pulled out of the squad. Sam was still at least four weeks away, and Josh B was even further. New signing Matthew Leigh was available however, and with Max looking to get something under his belt after his injury, we finally had 14 players available. For those not sure of what that actually meant to us, we had three subs in the friendly against Bath Academy on 27th August 2009 but two of them were guests. The last league game where we had three subs was just over two years earlier on Sunday 3rd February 2008, as U11's against Brislington! Just seven of that team were still with us, and with injuries, only four of them were starting. At training in the week, Joby had announced that he had decided to finish playing as a full-time goal-keeper and wanted to move onto the pitch! Andy had spoken to Jay, and he had agreed to take over until the end of the season, so barring injuries and holidays, this would be Joby's last official game as the team 'keeper!

The line up was:

Joby
Aaron Brandon Reece Joel
Jake Bryn Josh J Tom Charlie
Callum

Substitutes: Jay, Matt & Max

We forced an early throw down in their right back position. Callum took it and Tom headed onwards, but no one had gambled on the back post, and it was cleared to Aaron who chipped it back in but the 'keeper gathered it. He instantly launched an attack down the left and a player evaded challenges from both Charlie and Brandon, before Reece came in a cleared. Joby took a goal-kick and Tom flicked it on to Callum. He tried to find Josh with a ball through, but it was blocked, however Bryn won it back and threaded a ball between their right-back and centre-back for Callum to run on to and he powered it, through the 'keeper's legs and into the far right corner 1-0. Callum threw into the box towards Tom, but the bounce just took it slightly away from Tom and the goal, and as he spun to try to find it the 'keeper took it out of the air. They played a quick ball through and Reece faced three, however he held them up to allow Brandon time to slide in, but then Joel got goal-side, but stuck his leg in gave away a free-kick just outside of the area. The wall formed (nervously) but it forced the kick to be placed rather than powered. It was curled from the left around the wall, and Joby came across, at one point almost too quickly as it looked like it might just go inside of him, but he grasped it and held. Their equaliser was fortuitous to say the least. Both teams were trying to win the loose ball, with neither team really getting possession, but finally it came to Josh Williams who shot on the spin, and it hit Brandon on the back of the head and flew upwards on the

penalty spot. Joby came for it, but their attacker got his head there first and headed it in a loop over Joby, and it found its way into the net 1-1.

HALF-TIME: FRYS 1 ROVERS 1

Josh won the ball and played it out to Callum who hit it on the Matt on the left wing. He sucked in three challenges and avoided them all, before cutting back onto his right foot near the goal-line and crossed it in for Callum, but his shot was blocked. They then broke down the left and Brandon slid in with a strong tackle, but the ball came loose for a cross and Aaron headed it away. They then won a corner on our left and swung it in to the back post where Aaron headed it off of the line, and then led the charge out to clear it. We lost the ball from a throw on our left, and it was switched to their left, where their player cut back on to his right and shot high for the far post 1-2. We then had a throw on our left wing and Callum launched for Tom, but he was pushed in the back and the referee awarded us a penalty. Aaron, as last season's penalty winner stood forward and aimed for the bottom left, however it rolled just the wrong side of the post. We broke out of defence and got the ball to Callum who turned his man and won a throw. He took it quickly to Bryn down the right, and he rode the last ditch challenge but fired it at the 'keeper from a narrow angle. The ball was played into the middle by Tom towards Matt, who knocked it through for Bryn to beat the last defender, but the 'keeper dived at his feet to make the save. We then won a corner on the left and Callum swung it outwards to Aaron, unmarked on the penalty spot, but he got slightly under it and it went just over. Tom hit a ball over their defence and Callum chased after it. The 'keeper got there just ahead of Callum on the very edge as Callum dived in, and then as Callum stood up, the 'keeper kicked him! The referee pointed at the spot and both opposition Managers came onto the pitch to question the referee over his decision! We waited for everything to settle, before Callum strode forward (Aaron had instantly pointed at Callum when the ref blew for the penalty) and blasted the ball into the right corner 2-2. With seven minutes to go, the referee called both Managers in and asked them to calm both spectators and players as he felt the tension was rising. With feelings settled a bit we carried on. With three minutes remaining we lost the ball from a throw on the left and they went quickly with it over the top, and their forward was in on goal and slotted it past Joby, causing wild celebrations from their team which saw both of their managers running onto the pitch to celebrate with the goal-scorer 2-3. We went forward one more time but couldn't convert the last opportunity.

FULL-TIME: FRYS 2 ROVERS 3

Man of the Match – Chosen by Andy for excellent play and effort – Callum

Afterthoughts.....
Everyone was gutted with the way the match ended and why shouldn't they be? Our players had given everything and had not surrendered anything. We should be proud of the way that they had conducted themselves, and as both Dave and I said afterwards, if we play with that level of commitment in the last eleven games, there's no reason that we won't end halfway up the table! For those wondering if we are running out of time, we are now exactly halfway through the season! The games come thick and fast now, but with the squad numbers up, we should maintain a level of fitness that should see us through.

NB In the last 16 of the Somerset U14 County Cup, Frome Town Youth beat East Coker Cockerels 7-1.