

North Wellington V's Stop Out Rebels

Newlands Park 30/05/2009

As reported by Joe Wanders

I punched the air in jubilation as captain Phil announced that i had won the top honor of the day"Man of the match". Arms raised and standing on the seats inside the changing room in front of a dozen half naked muddy players to receive such an honor was short lived when i suddenly realised that this was actuallya set up!

Conspiracy

Yes a conspiracy in the making! The higher authorities had concocted a plan to get some poor sucker to write the next match report.....that sucker is yours truly and it got me thinking that the 25 kilometers' that i had run, walked and crawled, the tackles and passes i had managed didn't quite outweigh the ones i had missed and the times i struggled to chase the opposition.

What came to mind were the comments i had made the week before about my being 'safe' . Yes safe from the time consuming responsibility of writing a match report 'ever' because i couldn't see myself winning such an honor due to the existing talent within the team. This of course was not based on the high criteria that I had set for my self (which included a step to the right and a step to the left do the hokie tokie and let it all out) but rather on the fact that every player in our team is quality in some form or other not just as soccer players. Yes you all agree I know!.

My conclusion to this then is that I say too much and am my own worst enemy. Our good friend and side line critic confirmed this theory and so here it is a match report;

Book for Dummies

Saturday was almost a perfect day for footie, no wind (apart from the bad air in the changing room), no rain (apart from Fraser's crying) and just a bit of a chill in the air to keep the spectators awake for the on coming game. The ground was good considering all the rain we have had but it was a bit heavy under foot making it hard work to run on.

Chafee awarded the 'Dummy' book to Brucey who immediately started to read it so that he could give some tips to the rest of the team! No Brucey this is to improve or even inspire your own game! Look at what it did the previous week for Chafee whom took home the man of the match after reading and applying its wonderful tips.

Management formed a plan to have a 3 in defence (which changed to plan B, 20 minutes later) and Captain Phil gave his usual captains word that fired us all up in self beliefready for the game.

The Game

With no wooden fences to beat up or French styled karate kicks required to instill fear into the opposition the game started with some nice simple passing that made us look pretty professional. This was only encouraged by the shouting of approval from the side line crew. Yoda would have said it himself "good it was to see football played simple".

The opposition had a very good play maker sitting in mid field directing the play and who was very hard to catch in possession of the ball. Had he had been a drug dealer even the fuzz would not have caught him in possession. They had a very nibble little striker who had speed like the wind and could turn on a six pence (=5 cents NZ) and together they made many opportunities but Stop Outs finishing was pretty bad with many shots going well over our cross bar and down to Wellington harbor. However a quick one touch routine saw them easily split us apart just outside our box to score an unstoppable goal. This was probably the best goal ever scored against us and poor Zulu didn't even get a chance to even move (probably thinking about shower time after the game). **0-1**

Westie has broken the curse put on himself by the witch doctors in his head. He did a lot of running up front and putting good pressure on their defense and was rewarded when he received an early cross just outside the box, he lifted the ball and placed a beautiful lob over the keepers head and into the net. **1-1**

Ludo fulfilled the request that I put on him with a sweet set up pass to me in front of the goal. With the thought of all those shots that had previously gone over the bar I hit a first time volley low and hard but as many of us have this season straight to the keeper. Sorry about that. Ludo you are free now!

Brucey, Doc and Dave (sounds like a new rock band) worked hard in midfield. And Mikey did his usual speed work to get to the ball when needed but like the rest of us was feeling the pinch from all the running. Glen had his work cut out trying to contain that nippy player mentioned earlier How do you keep your eye on a player that only comes up to your arm pit? Paul did his usual good work in defence with Fraser and Phil. Chafee I feel was aiming for great heights again, his previous weeks game time was 90 minutes (a record in his book) and now he had broken another personal record of less than 5 minutes playing time as he literally crawled off the park holding his ankle.

An unexpected free kick for a hand ball and a well taken penalty from Ludo give us the lead.

2-1

Keeper - Zee U Later U

King Kris was not available and hence probably why we were one short in our support crew, with Michelle not there. Our step in keeper was 'Zulu' (aka Russell).

But if you want to know what 'ZULU' actually means in Afrikaans it means "Zee U Later U".

I liked the way he charged out from his line to shut down the attacks. However in one such charge and correct me if I am wrong but a keeper should never go shopping during a game..... right.? I just remember Zulu running out to meet a high ball and not coming back!

With no keeper at home the same Stop Out midfielder had three attempts at the goal before Mr Zee U Later U decided to returned to his post. Apart from this little oversight he was impressive pulling off a masterful save later in the game which looked like a sure goal.

The Side line

Good on you support crew through out the year Jo.S, Joe.F, Tjene, Belinda, Michelle, Francois, Charlotte, Colin and Steve regularly support the team even on the coldest of days. We thank you. We need to reward these people some how.

Mentions

Bill was missed at the back today who (like Psycho Paul) works like a scud missile a long range interceptor with good speed and a build in GPS system designed to pin point and cut down any opposition attacks.

A special welcome back to our tandem strike force Terry and Kevin who both inspite of not being match fit managed to keep the pressure on up front. The rotation policy of the 4 forwards worked well, as it does in the midfield.

Captain Phil in my opinion and un-officially I thought was the real deserving one to hold up the 'man of the match' award this week. And as Captain it would be hard to award the title to ones self and remain humble. Phil sailed into the opposition and displayed a never give up attitude which saw him win the ball more than once, more than twice, more than three times even when laying on the ground his ever ready batteries kept his legs running as he re-launched himself. A header off the line from him (and one from Paul) saved us from a losing this game. Also you will notice that he has developed a nice little passing game due to his twilight sessions with Jo (*ref: Twilight = a form of 5 aside soccer and Not a special encounter between two people*). Well done that man.

Conclusion

Not the best game for us as a team. It seemed that we were chasing the ball more than playing with it. Perhaps a game won by defence, but yet again we have come back from behind to take the win. This shows a lot of character and self belief in the team even though the win was against a team that is sitting at the bottom of the table.