

Fourlanesend vs St Germans

7/1/16

On Thursday afternoon we played St Germans at home, in very windy conditions on a very overgrown pitch. Following Wednesday's training session we went into the game with a plan to defend and hit long direct passes to find a way past the opposition defence.

The game started and for the first 10 minutes it was a battle of the midfields, with our pairing of Harry and Peter running their socks off to get back and forth for the team as well as winning multiple tackles. The team were quite defensive, after our last game against Antony, the whole team were determined not to concede. Therefore, we had worked hard on clearing the ball out of our own area in training, and this carried over into the game as the defence of Kanye, Nathan and Louie all made no nonsense clearances to get rid of the danger. As well as Jude making some superb saves in goal to keep the score at 0-0. It wasn't till the second half where we found our confidence, we realised how we can attack really well as well as defend! However, the one time when no one could put their foot through the ball was when we conceded. A great finish by their striker gave them the 1-0 lead. This was then followed by more scrappy battles in the midfield, at times we were too defensive meaning when we got the ball up front to Alfie he was isolated a lot of the time. This did not stop him from getting any shots away, forcing good saves from their goalkeeper to deny us a way back into the game.

The half time whistle blew and we went into the break a goal down but definitely not out of the game. I pressed that when we are going forward we need to give the attackers more support. We changed the goalkeepers as Nathan went in goal while Jude moved out into defence. We also subbed on Ruby for Louie and Brae for Harry.

Some questionable refereeing led to us falling a second goal behind. Jude looked to be fouled on the ball but the referee (who was my brother) let play go on, with Jude out of position the door was left wide open for St Germans to double their lead. No sooner had we just kicked off St Germans added a third. A skilful run by their number 10 (who had been their best player all game) was capped off with an expert finish. Suddenly we found ourselves staring at another defeat, good defending by Ruby and saves from Nathan stopped us going further behind. We made two last changes of the game Harry coming on for Peter as well as Louie coming on for Kanye. Both Peter and Kanye had great performances and should be proud of how well they performed on the pitch.

With only 6 minutes to go we found a way back into the game. Jude sent a long ball over the top of the defence and Alfie got free of his man and found himself one on one with the goalie, his first shot was saved but he reacted quickest to the loose ball to tap the ball into the empty goal. This was the start of what must have been the best comeback in Fourlanesend football history. Hitting St Germans on the counter attack, we bombed forwards in numbers just like I had said to at half time. Brae was composed on the ball and picked a stunning pass with his weak foot to Alfie, who went past 3 defenders before smashing home past the goalkeeper, 3-2! Alfie then could have had his hat trick when he hit the post as he turned on the ball and shot following a mistake from their goalkeeper. With 2 minutes remaining we zoomed forward in formation once again passing and moving on and off the ball until we were in on goal. Alfie's shot was superbly saved by the goalkeeper but the loose ball fell to the feet of Ruby who'd surged forward and smashed the ball into the empty net! Sparking mad scenes from all the players and parents on the touchline. We had come from 3 down to draw 3 all in 6 minutes! It was virtually the last kick of the game!

A fantastic performance by the whole team, we thoroughly deserved the draw and maybe could have won the game. We took what we had worked on in training and perfected it in the match. No matter what the score is it shows our players have the character to pick themselves up and coming back fighting and we certainly showed that today, so a massive well done to all the players! Also a big thanks to all the parents who came and supported the team, despite the windy weather! Hopefully we can take what we have learnt from this game and go on and win the next one!

Thanks
Tom