

Match Report

Dartford FC U18's Central v Dartford FC U18's North Princes Park Community Pitch 20th July 2008

Both teams made good use of this friendly but for different reasons. The central side used it as a fitness exercise and to blood some new players. The north side used it as a way to assess some of their new players while looking to see how their existing players would get on against a Kent league side.

The game started as expected with the central side playing the ball around nicely and the north side started quite well. The central side soon got the ball under control and started to make the possession of the ball count.

Strangely enough the first of the keepers called in to question was the central sides, Billy Byrne. He was called upon to deal with a low cross in to the area which was sent back where it came from with the help of the defence. At the other end, the central side started to apply the pressure via the pre-match instruction of getting the ball out wide to the two wingers, Connor Heffernan & Danny Nash. It was a ball in from Nashy that ended with the ball falling to the right back, Jack Walter. His shot thumped back off the cross bar and Callum Nye volleyed home from close range.

James Jordan had a particularly good first half and was unfortunate that a couple of self-created efforts went wide or came back off the frame of the goal. The home side also had a shout for a penalty when Callum Nye was upended in the box. The decision not to award the penalty was farcical. There are dubious penalties, decent shouts and down right obvious easy decisions to make – guess what one I thought this was! But no points were at stake, so we just had to take it on the chin!

It was always the decision to make many changes from the 30 minute mark onwards and this resulted in a stop-start game. One change that was made was to rest Callum Nye and to bring on Sami Kadri. Sami soon started to worry the opposing back 4 with his pace, and maybe if they could have kept up with him they would have saved the poor linesmans right arm – I haven't seen so much flag waving since the Ark Royal left for the Falklands!!! ;-). Sami played well and it was he that added the second goal. A great through ball by Sean Heather found Sami and he ran the ball in to the area and dinked it over the advancing keeper for a very well taken goal.

With about 20 minutes to go the north side pulled a goal back to make the score 2 - 1 when the left back Liam Garrett found himself through with only the keeper to beat. He did this easily and it suggested an interesting finish to the game. However, up popped that man Sami Kadri again and he finished a move that was again fed from the right. This wasn't quite as classy a finish as it seemed to hit anything and everything except Samis' right boot! Still, they all count don't they!

The central side had plenty of other chances and the game was a good run-out for this time of year. We had other penalty shouts and the goal came to the rescue of the visitors on more occasions than I care to remember but all in all I am sure it provided the visitors with an insight as to the level of competition in their new league. It proved a very worthwhile exercise for us too. Players that were playing with the side for the first time were Ola Ayoola, Rob King, Charlie Crudden and Billy Byrne. They all played very well and all played their part in an entertaining game.

Central Squad:- Byrne, Walter, Crudden, King, Ayoola, Heather ©, Nash, Heffernan, Dent, Jordan, Nye
Subs (all used):- Kadri, Zajac, White, Baiden, Beckley, Issuree

Goals:- Kadri (2) Nye

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