



Somerset Soccer Club

EST 1979

UNDER 18'S 26/06/2010

Determination, Desparation and Results

A wet ground, a terrible memory and a change room full of determination is all our young boys needed to play today. Before you hear about the game you need to know that the last time we played Burnie, we lost 15-0. And the last time we played at home on a soggy, wet ground we lost 9-0. Our two worst losses for the year and this one more so than anything as it was against our derby rivals, The North Shorewell Emus. 15-0 is disheartening for anyone especially when you are a bunch of kids playing your third game for their club careers. All week at training we learnt how to defend with different types of tackles and different techniques as Burnie tore us apart with one on ones in the first game. I gave a big spiel about how much we had improved and confident I was of them playing well. I had set the boys a target of a 5-0 loss as this was a third of our previous score line and we were aiming to improve every game we played. I thought this was extremely achievable and was hoping for a better result but as the game started we had our trademark slow start and within 2 minutes a mistake was made in defence which gifted Burnie their first goal. It began dismal and within 15 minutes we were 3-0 down courtesy of 2 more defending mistakes in which Nathan had made tremendous saves and only Burnie followed up the shot to tap



into the net. It was looking like a blowout again but it seemed to turn the lights on in the boy's head and they started tackling, running and passing like I haven't seen this year. Our defending was getting better which is at times our worst part of our game and probably the hardest part of our teams style to get right.

Half time 3-0.

Our talk at halftime was meaningful on all levels and the result so far had seemed to touch each and every one of the boys in that room. We talked about the things we had done wrong and the things we should be doing. There were things we were improving on and defence was seeming to hit its stride on this particular day. I told the boys that 5-0 was still a capable result and the boys looked angry





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with me. After I said that the boys piped up and spoke out of turn in a way that I haven't seen. They said it wasn't good enough and that they were determined to not let Burnie score again and it looked like they meant it. My only fear was that they were in over their heads and would come out disappointed. We changed our attitude and everything was put on defensive pressure. I asked them sternly to get themselves behind the ball with two or three men every time I wanted Burnie pressured out of the game.

From that point on I saw not 14 boys walk out of that change room, but 14 men and they all walked and talked and ran differently that half. This was the hardest I had ever seen the boys work and every time a Burnie player got the ball there was a tackle laid or a second or third defender and the pressure by each and every player on that field was exceptional. Nearly every part of that half we played out of defence and played our way through the midfield. With our extreme pressure on Burnie we were able to make them panic and we held our composure and to my surprise created 3-4 really, really good chances towards the end of the game. We played our game for once and it really paid off. Burnie was folding right before our eyes and it was amazing to see the boys have so much heart on that field. Every tackle was a small win every completed pass was a small win and in the end we didn't win the game but to have a turnaround of 12 goals and finish this game only 3-0 down and to feel so happy and see so many smiles in that change room was a win in my eyes. Every player in that team worked hard for each other, they worked hard of themselves and they worked hard for their club and in turn the results will come and to most of the clubs surprise I think the results are closer than we all thought. Congratulations boys, so very, very proud.

Bobby Eaves

