

Strathclyde 2 vs 0 Pursuers

Strathclyde 2's/3's took the field for their second game of the season versus an ironically named "pursuers" (the overweight ageing strikers didn't do anything that even closely resembled chasing the ball). On a glorious night on an excellently kept pitch the Clyde lined up 1.Basset 2.Heggie 3.Gazza 4.Clarky 5.Shanta 6. The big easy 7.Doc (recently back from his record run of 13 back to back stag do's/weddings 8.Roscco 9.Drx 10.Big Man 11. Callum M Strathclyde had a very solid bench with Euan G, Hammy and Scotty featuring during the course of the game.

The opening 5 minutes set a template for the rest of the game as Strathclyde enjoyed almost all of the possession and switched the ball across the pitch freely. Whilst Strathclyde kept the ball neatly for a large part of the first half they were unable to convert possession into opportunities until around the 30th minutes when the a rebounded shot fell in the path of Drx 6 yards from goal, who had astutely followed the shot in, which was "punted" high and wide of the net, clearing the fence with the ball never to be found again. Strathclyde took relief as it became apparent there were goals to be scored in this game. The next chance fell to Niall who effort was surprisingly kept out by the man-mountain goal-keeper of the pursuers. Clarky playing centre half had to be replaced by Euan Godon late on in the first half due to a suspected hamstringing injury, however sideline rumours report he was just trying to escape Toeland's banter. The first half finished rather frustratingly at 0-0 with the ref commenting "all over the country there are half-time / full-time coupons being ripped up". The half time talk from Robert highlighted areas of improvement and 'Clyde set out to the second half looking to up the tempo.

After a sloppy first couple of minutes Strathclyde took control of the game again with the Big Easy and some small dark boy in the centre of the pitch making a real effort to get on the ball at every opportunity. Strathclyde's pressure finally paid off as some slick play down the left hand side between Gary and Callum led to a bouncing ball being controlled and fired into the back of the net by goal hungry "Tony". Observers took note that it was the big mans 3 consecutive scoring games for the Clyde. The goal took pressure off the boys and they started to stroke the ball around the pitch exploiting more gaps. Hammy replaced Pikey and Scotty replaced Doc to add new energy to the game. The substitutions paid dividends as crossy sprung the offside trap showed his "legendary" pace (that saw him leave an unnamed member of GAWA trailing behind at training on Monday) the doctor then rounded the keeper and slid the ball into the back of the net to give Strathclyde a 2-0 lead. For the next 20 minutes the game was very comfortable for the home side and multiple chances were created for the front pair who were unlucky not to add to their tally. Callum Murrison came onto a strong second half terrorising the entire right side of the Pursuers team. For an unexplained reason Strathclyde fell out of the game for the last 8 minutes and were under siege from a very poor Pursuers attack which for a time created some reasonable chances. Fortunately the home team held out but the poor display in the final 10 minutes left a sour taste in the mouths of all involved who had enjoyed a fairly solid performance for the majority of the game. While the performance wasn't great in the end a win a win so Strathclyde went home happy. This reporter wants to give honourable mentions to solid performances by Roscco who did well to control the game (when he was passed the ball) and Big Tony who worked tirelessly up top.

Lots to build on for Strathclyde but a solid win with some strong performances.