



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

Vs Falkirk Ams
Saturday 13th December
Grangemouth Stadium
KO 2.00 pm



Strathclyde went into the Scottish cup tie with Falkirk amateurs on the back of three straight defeats, it had been a long time since the first team had been stuck in such a rut of form and they were therefore determined to put an end to the run of poor results, and where better than an away tie against one of the favourites for the trophy.

The boys arrived at Grangemouth stadium in good spirits and after Johnny Gordon had ensured that no one else could use the facilities and Mark Shanta had proclaimed his undying love for Gayle Will Snr announced the team. With Johnny's earlier abuse on the toilet and 4 litre bottle of water giving away his condition Murray Duff stepped into the midfield meaning the team looked a little something like this; Hamilton, Patrick, Shanta, Heggie, McCall, Parr, Duff, Doneghey, McBride, Hornell, McClennan.

After a good warm up from the boys the game got underway, and it did so at a frantic pace, the caginess and respect for the opposition that has hindered the team in other 'big games' evaporated as Clyde made all the early running some nice link up play from the front two led to a couple of early strikes on goal and with Ja taking control of the midfield and marshalling them so they stayed strong as a bank of 4 protecting the defence there was definite spark in the teams play. Clyde were keeping possession well but Falkirks reputation was not just by accident and with a couple of ex pros in there ranks they began to cause the defence some problems, however it would still be fair to say that the opening goal came against the run of play. Some nice play from the Falkirk front two led to the lanky boy receiving the ball in the box after jinking past a couple of tackles he went down like the titanic, a penalty was awarded and subsequently dispatched. In previous weeks this setback had led to a couple of the boys going into a shell, this week however it only succeeded in spurring the clyde on, driven forward by the excellent midfield pairing of ja and duffer the boys once again took control of the game, a penalty claim was dismissed due to duffer being too honest, and then it happened...

A free kick was awarded some 30 yards out and as McBride stood over the ball the whispered order of Mark Shanta was too put it on the goalie, Shants head went down and he surged into the box the ball was delivered right on top of the goalie and as the young keeper came out to take what look liked a relatively easy catch the giant figure of Shanta Mark rose like a salmon, the keeper seeing this frightening figure out of the corner of his eye panicked and lost concentration he dropped the ball onto the shoulder of the big man. The rest, as they say, is history.

Half time 1-1

The message at half time was to keep the tempo high and not give the opposition any time to settle. The second half began and the game quickly got back to the frantic pace of the 1st half, with both sides desperate for the victory and a place in the next round the game started to open up. There was a number of chances at both end, Hornell should have done better with a couple of efforts before a goal was disallowed, after the big striker timed his run perfectly and the ball was floated in Hornell expertly dummied the ball into the net only to see his clever work ruined by the offside decision. The turning point of the game came shortly after with Strathclyde pressing forward Falkirk hit them on the counter with the striker breaking the offside trap he found himself through on goal, with only the keeper to beat he tried to round Pete only to knock the ball too far in front of him, what happened after that is a mix of a goalkeeper going crazy, a second yellow card and sending off for diving and the game swinging in strathclydes favour.



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If Strathclyde needed a lift the sending off definitely delivered one and the clyde drove forward in great numbers looking for an elusive winner. With time ticking down it looked like extra time and possibly even penalties, and with Capps pants filling up as every minute went by something had to be done.

When a free kick was awarded with only minutes remaining the Clyde could smell blood and the cavalry charged forward for one last assault on the Falkirk, but McCall didn't need them! He floated the ball over the top of the keeper who was expecting a cross, the ball nestled into the top corner and pandemonium ensued the clyde boys ran to celebrate a rare goal from the left back who just stood still. The resulting minutes petered out with the team keeping possession well and Strathclyde took the victory, a very good performance from the boys with stand out performances from Ja, Heggie and Shanta.

There will be no mention of the tapping up incident as the enquiry is still pending.