



**Vs Giffnock North
Stepps
Saturday 22nd August
KO: 2.30 pm**



After Wednesday nights defeat Clyde were looking to bounce straight back in this tough home tie with Giffnock North. Still without some key players due to suspensions and chicken sandwiches Clyde lined up in a similar 4-3-3 formation as Wednesday night with Pete, Paddy, Hill, Shanta, Sean, Pete Ross, Ja Ja, JP, Duffer, Scott and Niall. Will and John stressed the need to be wary of the opponents direct style (at least that what he said last night so I'm gonna use that as ah cannae mind what he said on Saturday) and pick up second balls while be cautious not to give away needless free kicks.

I don't know if many of the team had been drinking directly before the game or it was just Ja's warm up (or more realistically Pete's banter) but Clyde started the game in atrocious fashion. Possession was constantly surrendered or indeed on several occasions Davie Hill was seen to control the ball and pass it straight to their striker. However, after a shaky opening 15 minutes and some vital stops from Pete, Clyde began to find their feet and work out what colour their team mates were wearing. As the half wore on Clyde strung a few passing moves together and began to get Will's boy (Ja) on the ball although, it was Giffnock that were soon ahead after some sluggish defending of a short corner from the Clyde left.

Giffnock worked the ball to an unmarked player on the edge of the box (Armani or summat they cry 'im) he then faked to shoot that caused the Clyde defender to assume the foetal position (and naw Shanta u cannae do that wi w'or Gaylsie) allowing a tame left foot shot to head goal wards. Paddy Broadfoot attempted to clear but only managed to direct the ball towards Shanta's perfectly sculpted bahooky which then in turn diverted the ball goal ward and Pete (still talking about his save at Harp) couldn't react quick enough to keep the ball out.

At this stage I remember their GK being really bad at high balls and the refereee's performance deteriorating into the "he's a whalloper" category but I can't remember much else from Saturday apart from the wee Canadian's chick pierced nipple so I am waiting on an e-mail from Pete to confirm a few of the football events.

Pete has now replied. Clyde, after this minor set back, began to pour forward taking advantage of Giffnock's defensive 4-5-1 formation though it was from a lucky break that Niall "look at the size of my ankle and my Scotland cap Troy" McClure snatched the equaliser. After a relatively hopeful through ball from Duffer toward Sausages that the Giffnock defence assumed their Flora Fingered GK would clear up, Niall accelerated in and nipped it round the helpless GK and slotted it home form a tight angle. 1-1 at half time. The second half continued in the same pattern with Clyde probing forward in search of that elusive winner, chances came and went (in other words I can't remember). One glaring chance was passed up by Ja but in fairness the big man fashioned the chance himself. Driving at the heart of the North defence he managed to Cruyff turn back onto his right foot 18 yards out but he was unable to get enough power on the ball to beat the GK with his elegant looking curler to far top corner (it's my Achilles I can't hit it hard!!??...Heggie's face was a picture of disgust). Clyde were looking for a hero...or someone to put the ball in the net in the absence of Capp.....(LOL)!!! Up steps Shanta Mark.

With the game entering the final stages Will pushed the big man up front to get on the end of things and Shanta duly obliged. From another great cross from JP (he doesn't pass but fook me he can cross..PORRIDE!!) and a flick on at the front post from a Giffnock player, that I think was meant to be a pass back, Shanta nipped in and nodded the ball home from a yard. What happened after this I can only describe as brown nosing of the highest order!! Shanta wheeled away, and you would think run towards his onrushing team mates but no, he ran straight towards Murdo (judge of fan's player of the year) and cuddled him....Heggie says he thought he saw Shanta nibble Murdo's ear a bit and invite him roon' for meatballs but this was regarded heresay.

Clyde managed to see out the remaining minutes and secure a vital 3 points against a tough physical opponent.

MoM Shanta (cos Murdo told me too)