



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Glasgow

**Vs Caley 2s**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Petershill Complex**  
**KO 3.00 pm**



Strathclyde 3's put their title credentials in serious doubt after what could simply be described as their worst performance of the season against a Caledonian side who are supposed to be relegation candidates.

The squad arrived at Petershill in good time to check out the impressive 3G surface, on an ideal day for football. Following the magnificent performance against Aberdeen, Del and Bassett had a full strength team available, and went 4-4-2 with Bassett in goals behind Niall Connolly, Andy Hogarth, Bruce Moir and Del himself at right back. The midfield was made up of Ian and Thommo on the flanks with Curly and Matt in the centre. Up front were Scott Stevenson with Roddy MacKay partnering him.

The pre-match team talk focused on the must win nature of the game, and that concentration and attitude were vital, and that conceding an early goal was not an option.

However whatever was said in the dressing room seemed to be ignored by the players as within 1 minute of kick off, Clyde gifted a goal from a set piece. An out-swinging cross was hit to the back post where a Cali man was waiting unchallenged to direct a diving header into the net. 1-0 to Caly. Worse followed 5 minutes later, and yet again it was a set piece from the left. Another cross was directed to the back post where a Caly player had the simple task of directing a header past Bassett into the net. 2-0 Caly with the Clyde defence caught ball watching again.

The rest of the half consisted of Clyde trying to get out their own half, but this proved difficult due to them gifting possession from the back and from midfield to the opposition. Credit must go to Caly who challenged for every ball and counter attacked each time they won it back. The Caly keepers' only involvement was to make routine catches from the few deliveries Clyde made into the area. He was never tested.

The half time whistle sounded and gave the opportunity for some words to be said. The fact that the Caly team talk lasted 30 seconds sums up how they felt they had performed.....Clyde could have done with 15 minutes. Basic things were missing; the 50/50 battles were being constantly lost, possession was abysmal, but more worrying was that it looked as if one team was willing to put everything on the line for 3 points, whilst the other looked like a team that had turned up for a kick-about.

The squad set out again for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to show the reason why they were title challengers. Clyde started better with Ian McMillan getting on the ball and trying to charge down the line; whilst at the back things were steadier. Although the 2<sup>nd</sup> half performance was slightly improved, The Caly keeper only had one save to make from Curly, which he tipped round the post. Ruaraidh Mcleod was brought on to the left, whilst Ian pushed up to make a forward 3. Mushy was introduced to the forward line to try and salvage something, and Ross Cormack was given a chance as well. However the final whistle heralded a very disappointing day for Clyde and started an inquest within the dressing room, whilst Caly achieved another comfortable victory which may boost their chances of survival, so best of luck to them.

With news that Aberdeen had indeed beaten Napier 4-3 it was a double blow and now Clyde must travel to the Capital and return with no less than 3 points, before the re-arranged showdown at Stepps.

Perhaps our Glasgow rivals will do us a favour.....we need one now.