



Vs Glenavon Thistle,
20 September 2008
Stepps, KO 10 am

GDSML

Thistle Hit for Six

Strathclyde Uni handed out a drubbing on Saturday to visitors Glenavon Thistle. Goals came from Hammy 2, Mikey 2, Del and DrX.

It was a rare game that the RR managed to take in on Saturday morning, as he is usually sleeping off a hangover. What a game he was treated to. The RR got to take in 14 goals over the weekend as he was down at the City stadium in Manchester watching City hand out a drubbing to Portsmouth. With the Clyde down to the bare bones it was one of those mornings you were glad to be a Stepps. Coach Bryson, who was itching to get away early for his holiday to Egypt, had the team there early and managed to get a fine out of each and everyone of them, except Captain Murray, for being late. The game plan of Coach Bryson was simple, set the stall out 4-4-2, "score first and second" the quote of the day. Clyde's line up was looking pretty settled with more or less the same squad that has lined up over the past few games. Mike, Euan, Phil, DrX, McCusk, Troy, Duffer, Tam, Del, Hammy and Mike, with Hotrod on the bench.

Clyde were out early and were a good way through their warm up before the opponents Glenavon made it to the pitch. The referee turned up before and exchanged pleasantries with both teams. Clyde looked like a caged beast ready to pounce before Murray lost yet another toss and they had to switch ends. Clyde played against the wind in the first half due to his ineptitude. After a disappointing result away to Allander last week, Clyde looked like they had a point to prove to themselves and Coach Bryson. Clyde were quick out of the blocks and pinned Glenavon back straight away. It took Clyde ten minutes to get the first breakthrough with Hammy finishing brilliantly from a nice move down the left from Duffer. The second goal was another one of pure class, the ball started with the old yin at the back who pushed out of defence playing a ball to the rampant Duff, who then played a great tempting ball into the edge of the box, the ball was matched by a great run from Hammy, who took defender and keeper out of the game to coolly slot home from outside of the box, what a move, what a goal! At most three cutting forward passes finished by Hammy was just what was asked for. With Glenavon battling to stay in touch with a rampant Clyde, the tackles started to become harder, later and more brutal. Glenavon, managed to get through Clyde's back line after nearly thirty minutes, but a great save from Sloth denied them. Then Clyde hit back, with the pace of young Troy breaking down the right. He ghosted past his marker and was bearing down on goal; he was then astonishingly tackled by his own player Del, who had seen the keeper coming out. It turned out Del's crucial intervention was spot on. Del showed that Shanta Snr has rubbed off on all the boys in the squad, Shanta's motto is you don't have to score goals by shooting or heading them, if you tackle them in they still count. Another good move with another good finish.

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With Clyde looking comfortable at half time, Coach Bryson needed to make sure they didn't get complacent and gave words of encouragement to all the lads. It was a case of going back out and doing everything right again. No changes were made and Clyde were asked to score first and second again! The game kicked off and obviously, the half time team talk for Glenavon had worked, as they came out for the second half pumped up. It was ten minutes after the re-start that Glenavon got a goal that never looked like coming, with Euan, McCusk, DrX and Murray keeping everything tight, but then the long ball caught out a sloppy back line, which Glenavon capitalised on and scored. Clyde were shocked, but it was the way they replied to it that showed that this team is coming together well. Clyde controlled the game with some slick passing moves that centred on Tam and Duffer. Then as Clyde threatened to break through a Glenavon defence that had undergone two enforced changes due to injury, Tam was cynically fouled by Glenavon's number 11 who deservedly received a caution. It was this point that the match took two unbelievable twists; the RR has never seen anything like it. Close to thirty yards out, Duffer, Tam and Cross stood over the ball. The referee had the wall back a full ten yards. The free-kick was slightly right of centre, the silence around the pitch was golden, the old boy had pulled rank and was going to hit it. With the keeper tucked behind his wall hedging his bets in case the Old yin was going to bend it around the wall, Cross wiped the copious amount of sweat off his brow. Then it happened, he strode up and unleashed an unstoppable shot over the right hand edge of the wall and into the keepers right hand corner. Those who were shouting "don't let him



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near it" were now on their feet in uproar, Coach Bryson was heard on the phone to Shanta "you're not going to f@king believe what has just happened". Later reports said that Shanta, who is on -1 goals for the season, was gutted. Straight from the kick off Glenavon tried to push Clyde back by putting three men up front. This helped Clyde with their passing game, with Duffer, Tam, Niall and Del dominating the midfield. It was another good move by Clyde down the right that the next twist happened another ridiculous challenge from Glenavon's number 11 left Del outstretched and then the referee reached for his book, everyone on the pitch knew what was coming, even the guy stood walking his dog knew what was happening, the number 11 was walking, then the referee has a rush of blood and booked Glenavon's number 9. This caused coach Bryson to explode "you're the only one getting paid for this today and you're making mistakes like that" to which the only red card of the day was brandished and coach Bryson was off for an early bath, the cynics amongst us thought it was on purpose so he could get to duty free quicker. After his dismissal Clyde pressed there advantage even further and a tireless display from Mikey fully deserved his scrappy goal to make it 5-1. With Glenavon resorting fully to the Wimbledon style of football, with their man mountain upfront, something was going to give. With about twenty to go Glenavon bundled home another goal, which keeper Sloth will be disappointed to concede. Wee hammy was struggling and Clyde's stand in coach Johnson quickly made the change to bring on the schemer Hot Rod who fitted in well just behind the industrious Mikey. With the game starting to descend into a blur of more reckless tackles, most from Glenavon's number 11, the referee decided to have one last cameo by booking a second Glenavon player instead of issuing their number 11 with his second yellow card. By this point even Glenavon were telling the referee that it was the wrong player. A visit to Specsavers is booked for Tuesday 2pm for the referee. With minutes left on the clock Mikey broker clear and slotted a ball past a helpless keeper to make it 6-2.

Clyde showed great Bouncebackability by winning this game 6-2. The RR was treated to some sublime passing, great shifts from Duffer, Tam, Niall, Del and Mikey, a master class in finishing from Wee Hammy, some cool calm defending from the back four, a cameo from Hot Rod, some unreal refereeing decisions, including a straight red for Bryson and, forgive me for running out of superlatives, a wonder strike from the ageless DrX.

A great game of grass roots football, hopefully more to come, but the international break is next week so it will be interesting to see what October brings the Clyde.

Keep on trucking

RR