

Ellerslie AFC First Team vs Glenfield

24th March 2012

4-1 to Glenfield

Goals (EAFC): Isaac Brealey 1

The first hit out of the season, away against Glenfield Rovers, was a torrid affair. They set up with 3 at the back and loaded their midfield. We did not adapt early enough and sat back too deep in our wide positions. This meant that we were slow to press them when they had possession, which allowed them to get good early ball and their progression up the pitch was unrestricted at times. When we did react and push on they were well set to go in behind our Fullbacks and trouble us with midfield runners into these areas.

Paul Hooper and I discussed a formation change, but concluded that with early assessment we should be able to loosen our shape out of possession and press them harder, then continue to play as we had set up to do in possession. This said we were competitive enough until Scott Wallace was put into an ambulance with a suspected leg fracture after a ruthless challenge.

It was at this point that we recognised the referee was not strong enough to be in charge of this fixture. She appeared intimidated by the constant screams for decisions to go their way by the unrelentingly vociferous coaching staff attached to Glenfield. This was English coaching at its most annoying - the belief that the louder you are, the more effect you have on the match and your team's performance, and thereafter the better the coach you become, and of course the arrogant notion that you are always right influences all of the above. It also presented that some teams delight in the heavy handed approach to Football, and that we were facing such a side.

We pushed Ryan O'sullivan in to the midfield for Scott and brought on Mike Glenny at right back. We conceded when we failed to check a good late run into the box from Anthony Hagan, to head in from 8 metres. The team never let the events unsettle them and enjoyed the moment Isaac Brealey scored his first senior goal for us just before the break.

The second half saw us take the field without Yuriy Agarkov who had been replaced at the 40 minute mark after landing heavily from a lazy challenge, and concerning physio Matt Hylla sufficiently enough to get an ambulance for him as well. We adapted to Glenfield's shape better after the break and we looked good to take home some points, when after 70 mins we made a poor mistake playing out of the back and conceded a second. It knocked us back and had the opposite effect on them. With 15 mins to go Mike Ritchie cramped up and as we had made our last available substitution, bringing on Luke Cairns for the cramping Isaac, we were forced to push Mike up front and effectively play out the match with 10 men.

They then reacted well to another error in judgement from us and had a comfortable lead with 10 to go. A late penalty completed the scoring and a 4-1 defeat to a very strong team who will be one to trouble many this season. The final whistle signalled a halt to the continuous screeching and flailing of arms from the Glenfield coach followed by a complete change of demeanour, normally only associated with someone who suffers with severe personality disorder. The archetypical English coach then extends his hand in the misguided belief that it will be heartily accepted and that all is good with the world.

Yeah ...Right.

The last thought from me goes to the application and performance of Matt Hylla who had a demanding afternoon looking after Scotty and Yuriy.
Well done Matt.

Warren Parke