

Match Report 2012

07th April 2012

vs Takapuna AFC Reserves

Michaels Ave # 1

Ellerslie 4, Takapuna 3

Goals: Callan Manickum, Andy Wallace, Alex Witteveen, Zach Margison

09th April 2012

vs Albany United Reserves

North Harbour Stadium # 4

Albany 4, Ellerslie 2

Goals: Alex Witteveen, Ben Pauley

Reserves have had a touch of a topsy turvey start to the season. Coming out of their preseason matches undefeated and playing some stellar football they hit the ground fast at Glenfield with a strong opening 20 minutes completely bossing the game. Unfortunately reserves contrived to concede an early goal against the run of play which put a dampener on the football. The lads managed to get their heads down and made the game hard work for themselves despite being the better side. Fortunately (thanks largely to the work in preseason) Reserves finished the game strong getting an equaliser and unfortunate not to get a winner. This has become something of a pattern for the reserves this season – conceding soft goals and making hard work of games – fortunately we continue to finish strong however over Easter weekend we faced a couple of reality checks.

On Saturday we found ourselves 3-1 down at halftime to Takapuna (at the time 0-0-2) – once again heads had dropped and soft goals had been conceded. We had moved away from our natural game and looked to be disjointed. Fortunately again however the lads showed good mental strength and fitness and managed to run over Takapuna in the 2nd half running out eventual 4-3 winners with goals spread between all 4 strikers (Cal, Andy, Alex and Zach). Needless to say, despite being pleased with the result the lads understood that it was a wakeup call and we could not continue in the same vein.

Unfortunately it seems the lads hadn't had enough sleep – once again despite starting brightly for the first 15-20 minutes of the game against Albany on Easter Monday the lads somehow managed to concede an Oggy and let their heads drop again – the final 25-30 mins of the half seemed to be played without much heart and confidence across the field and we found ourselves 3-0 down to an outfit who never looked fully comfortable. The 3 goals ended up being too much to overhaul in the 2nd half, however there was heart to be taken from the performance put in by the lads for the final half managing to “win” the half 2-1 (Alex and Ben Goal scorers).

So with the second home game of the season approaching against Lynn Avon the lads are aware that some improvement is needed. Despite the way the season has started there is a very positive vibe in the camp with the new coach Jim bringing with him a strong work ethic and belief in the players. I fully expect this weekend the reserves will take the field with something to prove to themselves, Jim, Warren and the supporters. There is great talent and ability within the squad and as soon as it clicks I believe the reserves will be a team that is extremely hard to stop this season.

Ben Pauley

