

Match Report 2012

01st April 2012

vs Forrest Hill Milford

North Harbour Stadium Outer Oval

FHM 1, Ellerslie 3

Goals: Will Roper 2, Warrick Hart

We faced Forrest Hill away at Albany stadium on Sunday in a match both teams needed to win, in order to stay in touch with the teams already sitting on six points from their first two games. We started very well and had better possession than our opposition, we were controlled at the back and through the midfield, and we looked dangerous up front.

We had made changes to personnel after losing Scott Wallace, Yuriy Agarkov and Nick Parke to long term injuries, meaning we had a good look at our resources during the week, and while we have moved a little away from how we were looking to set up for the season, we have tremendous depth and players who are adaptable enough to play anywhere. We had many early chances, but it was a shot that rocketed off the back of Will Ropers calf that deceived the goalkeeper and gave us the lead we deserved.

Ollie Mullane and Jamie Olausen were strong for us at centre back and Callum Brown and Ryan O'Sullivan were probably the hardest worked. Ryan in the first half and Callum in the second half having to contain the lively Tewi Te Pou who was always dangerous on the ball for them and moved flanks at the break. Containing Forrest Hill at the back we continued to push forward confidently and as always enjoyed good midfield ball with Mike Ritchie in the holding midfield role and Eddie Sillars in behind the strike force starting to run the match. The midfield looked nicely balanced and the second goal was a product of good disciplined football, when from Ryan O'Sullivan we worked the ball well through the middle of the park into a wide area and delivered a quality ball in for Warrick Hart to drive home.

A 2-0 lead at the break gave us a vibrant team to talk to over oranges. Very early after the start we scored our third when Will Roper worked himself into a good area in the penalty box and from an acute angle chipped a ball over the keeper who flailed at it and managed only to help the ball into his net. At this point we had the match ,and only a penalty, well executed though it was, gave Forest Hill a bit of hope. What they did manage for the remainder of the match was to disrupt our game, we stopped passing and of course then had a high turnover rate , which was frustrating for the players.

Warrick Hart and Will Roper were tireless workers and stood out. While midfield pair Luke Cairns and man of the match Dylan Manickum were excellent on the ball. Very pleasing was the introduction of Isaac Brealey, Mike Glenny and Callan Manickum who added to the efforts of the team by adjusting quickly to the tempo of the match and undertaking the role they were given. So a good first set of points for us against a team who will trouble many as the season moves on.

Warren



Lineup:

Tim Hawes, Callum Brown, Jamie Olausen, Ryan O'Sullivan, Ollie Mullane, Michael Ritchie, Eddy Sillars ©, Dylan Manickum, Luke Cairns, Warrick Hart (1), Will Roper (2). Subs: Bruce Gibb, Michael Glenny (88min), Isaac Brealey (77min), Daniel Cope, Callan Manickum (90min)