

U13A Aldenham 3 Lockers Park 2

A thoroughly deserved win that gave the U13A side their first win of the season. In a game totally dominated by the home side, the score line does not really reflect the overall dominance of the game. After missing several early chances a defensive mix up between Dodd and Goal keeper Regan saw Lockers take a surprise lead just before half time. Aldenham quickly replied through a superbly worked goal between Waller, Charlton and coolly finished off by Campbell. The 2nd half started in much the same vain as the 1st but this time Aldenham took advantage of their chances with Dodd scoring the 2nd & a 25 yard lob from Marlow to add a 3rd. At this stage the Aldenham boys took their foot off the gas and were nearly made to pay when Lockers scored a second and then had an equaliser disallowed for handball. In the end Aldenham held on for a deserved first victory of the season.

MOM - Dodd

U13B - Lockers Park 3 Aldenham 1

A new fixture and a new school for the coach driver to try and find. Hemel is a wonderful place in Mid October!

Preparations were hit by the lose of the captain to Mumps and the refusal of the reserve centre half to play in that position. This was further compounded by the fact that he did not have his boots anyway!

The team started slowly and made the same mistake as last week by conceding very early in the first half. It is fair to say that we like to play football but don't like getting the ball back when we lose it. The players proceeded to weave some pretty patterns without ever threatening the 6 foot goalkeeper. Needless to say a second followed and a half time score of 2-0 was greeted by the usual oranges.

The second half commenced with Aldenham playing with more purpose and certainly being a lot quicker in thought and movement and chances began to be created. Unfortunately another careless lose of possession on the half way line resulted in a 2 v 5 situation and a third Lockers goal. Showing great character and drive the team pushed to get on level terms. Ben scored his third goal in 2 games after some great work by Timi several shots were well saved and chances spurned. Tom went on a devastating run from inside his own half played 3 one twos and drove past two more players before losing his feet in the penalty box. Either he was suffering from a lack of oxygen or two lockers boys tripped him – the jury is still out but now I know how Capello feels !!

The score remained the same and Aldenham were left to rue some basic defensive errors and only playing positively for 20 of the 50 minutes

Tom Ripper and Jack Sinclair played great games and MOM went to Ben Fraser for being the fulcrum of some excellent attacking play in the final 20 minutes. If only he knew where goalside was he could be the next David Beckham!

U13D Aldenham 8 Lockers Park 0

A very keen and enthusiastic U13D team turned up at the bus at lunchtime on Wednesday ready to face their new foes in Lockers park school and keep their undefeated record of the season so far (and from the excited buzz, miss chapel). With the new promotion of their internationally renowned assistant coach to team Manager (considering his home countries impeccable performance at the world cup) Mr Ben Holmes, we boarded the bus and headed off to Hemel (after waiting half an hour for two vital players to actually give us a full team in

Max Kohler and Zak Curtis who, in the post game analysis, need to focus on organisation for the next match). We turned up to Lockers park school and were kindly welcomed by the school and then prepared ourselves for the match. With two players missing from the original squad in Darius Ostovar and Zak Berg with injuries, we were left with only one sub meaning the players had to step up and fight for the full hour long game. After being named Captain for the match, Rowan Shindler rallied the troops into a solid warm-up and stretches before settling the team and leading from central defence. With the opposition coach explaining at the start that they were not the strongest of football players and that half of them couldn't kick a ball properly, I explained to our team to concentrate on Possession and putting some good passes together and playing some nice football which they ignored and went all out on our vulnerable opponents. The first 5 minutes started off with a powerful wave of attack from the Aldenham boys who caught the opposition in a lapse of concentration and with goals from Sam Spalter, James Delew and Ben Brown-Light bursting through the wall of defence, we were already up 3-0. With me shouting from the sideline to control the ball, look up and pass and keep possession, the boys continued to press but were held off by the 5 foot tall central defence pairing of Lockers Park who basically just stood in the way of our smaller counterparts. The game settled into a fairer contest with opportunities from both teams and the match becoming very exciting. With our rock-solid defence pair of Niall Logue and Rowan Shindler, goalkeeper Dan Murphy was never troubled and ended up playing outfield in the second half so he wouldn't be too bored. With an impressive combination of play up the right wing involving precision passes between Niall, Nick Falekkos and Darshan Perrara, Darshan slotted another one home past the good intentioned keeper to secure a 4-0 lead at half time. The half time team talk was all positive, focusing on making space, keeping the ball, passing and not making a fool of the other team(although that last one wasn't made blunt). With the energy of water and oranges (provided by Lockers Park), we burst back onto the park and steadied into a rhythm of play for the second half. With the introduction of Max Kohler up front and Dan Murphy now replacing Dan Harris at Left back, we played some lovely football that saw us set up more chances to extend the lead(even though the opposition coach said we would cut the half short if it got too silly). Lovely inter-changing play and impressive work on the left wing involving Dan Murphy, Ben Brown-light and Dev Modi saw a beautiful ball through from Dev to set Max on his way past the over-shadowing defence and through to score. The match progressed with more chances on goal saved by the ability increasing goalkeeper with every new shot and shots blasted out as the boys lacked composure. A goal mouth scramble from an Aldenham corner saw towering central defender Niall Logue pass the ball into the bottom right hand corner and produce one of the celebrations of the match with a flying fist pump. As Lockers Park began to tire, Aldenham kept the intensity up front and with powerful encouragement from our Captain in defence, we got two more goals to Spalter and Brown-Light before the final whistle finally blew. A credit to the two central defenders and goalkeeper for Lockers Park who were impressive in stopping the match becoming a NZ rugby score. A very impressive all round performance by the Aldenham boys who enjoyed some delicious hospitality after the game and continued their unbeaten record.

Outstanding performances on the day: Ben Brown-Light (passing and confidence on the ball), Dev Modi (Solid game-maker in midfield), Nick Falekkos (composure and skill on the left wing against bigger opposition) The big back 4 Rowan Shindler, Niall Logue, Zak Curtis and Dan Harris/Dan Murphy (never let any player into our 18 yard box) and Darshan Perrara (quick movement of and on the ball creating chances).

Goal scorers: Spalter x2, Brown-Light x2, Delew x1, Logue x1, Kohler x1, Perrara x1

Interesting stat of the game: The whistle blew more times for offside than how many goals we scored. Definitely needs drilling in.

Final score: 8-0