

Matches v Chigwell

1st won 5-1

The 1st X1 continued their impressive run of results by beating Chigwell 5-1 to end the half-term on a great note. After going 2 up within 20 minutes through goals by Voeller and another great team goal finished with a near post Ian Rush-like finish by Bennison, Aldenham took their foot off the pedal to let Chigwell back into the game. An injury to Gordon left us down to 10 men and Chigwell pounced to reduce the deficit just before half time. With a sub for the injured Gordon being sent up from the 2nd X1, we were back to full strength for the start of the second half. Chigwell pushed high up the pitch looking for an equaliser but this played straight into our counter attacking style. After missing a hatful of chances Aldenham eventually took advantage after the Chigwell keeper was sent off for a professional foul on Voeller. With Chigwell down to 10 men the chances came thick and fast with Bennison completing his hat trick and Voeller grabbing his second to complete the rout. Special praise must go to the defence, marshalled by Vice Captain Kane Wise, who have now only conceded 4 goals in 5 matches. A record that in school's football is extremely impressive, and one which has given us a platform to perform from.

2nd drew 1-1

The 2nd XI got a storming draw, playing the entire second half with only 10 men against a strong Chigwell side and an over-active linesman. No analogies required – just 10 heroic performances

3rd won 4-2

On a crisp Saturday morning the third XI set out to build on their 7 – 0 win over Immanuel School the previous Tuesday. The first half was tight but the first goal went to Joe Brunner from a superb shot on the edge of the area. However Chigwell replied with a goal from a goalmouth scrabble within 10 minutes. The second half saw Aldenham slowly gain dominance which was reflected in a cracking header from Chris Kelly followed shortly after by a power shot from Saahil Doshi-Bilakhia. The icing on the cake was another well directed header from Henry Broome which put the team in an unassailable position 5 minutes from time.

U16 lost 0-3

U15B drew 2-2

Without the lynchpin of Luke Clarke (CM) in the team on Saturday, the U15B team could have lacked formation and drive. After a specialised training session on Friday, designed to improve the accuracy of their passing and shooting (during which an impressive three goals were scored from within the box, albeit without a keeper), the boys had high hopes of a victory. The match kicked off at 10.00am in the bright autumnal sunshine and within three minutes, Berger had opened the team's account for the season. Chigwell failed to clear the ball from a corner, and Berger chested the ball down before volleying it over the keeper. He looked up to the skies to acknowledge the late Justin Fashanu (as the creator of such an audacious goal) and then four games' worth of pent-up emotions were let loose as the ten other players dived on top of him to celebrate the first goal.

Sadly, things did not quite go to plan after that. Despite Chigwell's defence not knowing the offside rule, Jarvis and the impressive debutant Burchill were unable to break through, and some reshaping was needed. The other star of the recent C-team triumph over Winchester, Stovall, was brought on and found himself almost immediately involved in controversy. He failed to control a ball in the box, and hit it onto his own outstretched arm to give away a penalty. After a retaken penalty, the Essex boys were back in contention.

The second half started brightly after an inspirational team talk, coupled with playing the game on the U15A pitch caused the players to really raise their game. It was only a matter of time before the second goal came and this was from another set piece. Talbot whipped in a corner from the left and again Chigwell failed to clear. In another training ground routine from the previous day, Getino took the ball down in the D and rocketed into the top corner for another contender for goal of the season. This time, however, the celebrations were more Tevez than Adebayour, and the game quickly recommenced.

Five minutes later, the Essex boys were back in contention as Stovall clattered into the wily centre forward on the edge of the box. Many of the Aldenham players were still remonstrating with the referee when Chigwell took a well-worked short free kick, which Dark was not able to save. Without the inspiration of the first goalscorer, the Bs found it difficult to maintain their shape in midfield and counted down the minutes. The controversy was still not over – both sides had claims for a penalty turned down. A Chigwell centre forward went shoulder-to-shoulder with Captain Kalms and came off second best (which caused the Chigwell coach to shout “outrageous” from the touchline) and then deep into injury time another penalty could have been awarded to Aldenham for a claim for handball.

The boys trudged off the field, seemingly disappointed with scoring not only their first goal, but their first point, of the '09 campaign. It was a monumental performance against a very strong opposition and with few areas of weakness. The team will work on a few more routines in training, and are just one goal away from their first victory of the season.

U14A won 4-3

We are still buzzing from our momentous comeback last Saturday. To say we were living the dream would be an understatement. Despite playing well, we went three goals down, yet the players refused to let their heads drop and continued to play with a high tempo and spirit that was to yield one of the greatest comebacks in living memory. The 4th goal was to spark jubilant scenes, which included a wild group hug between coach and players, which Andrew Stead may well have raised an eye brow to. Special mention must go to the tactical acumen of the coach (me) who had the vision to change formation and personnel to great effect. Captain Marvell a.k.a. Tom Proudlock scored a hat trick that was reminiscent of Ronny Rosenthal. Two of his strikes were audacious to say the least and dragged us back into the game. Let's also not leave out Tilks' ludicrous drag back through two defenders to which Ronaldinho would have been proud. Loving it! Every player made me proud on Saturday and we are now undefeated in the last three games against some very good teams. This is of course a team effort, right from the coach, the kit man, the water boy, the orange boy and of course the players who are giving everything at the moment. Living the dream!!

U14 B won 5-1.

After a series of frustrating results the U14 B's finally repaid the hard work that the coaching team, Pat 'Cloughie' Reid and Phil 'Taylor' Wright, had put in. Like a well written book, Reid and Wright had finally got the team playing as they could. After a some good play Freeman King delivered the perfect corner and that rarest of things, a headed goal by ol' Quintin himself, Tarantino Forrester, rising like a phoenix from the ashes. A second should have come but unfortunately it was not to be and the team went in a little nervous, like a bride on her wedding night, only one- nil up.

The second half, though, saw a deluge of goals not seen in these quarters since the Biblical flood. First Tarantino, terrorizing the defence like a raging bull, lashed in a pile driver, before completing his hat trick a few minutes later. A defensive lapse saw Chigwell get one back, but was this the start of some collapse reminiscent of the Italian army? No. A tactical switch by the management team pushed Freeman King onto the left and this resulted in two exquisite lobs of the keeper by the aforementioned Freeman King. The entire team played their socks off but special mention must go to Michael 'Midfield General' Shores and Joshgan 'Provider Supreme' Ali. Where next for this team? Onwards and ever upwards if this result is anything to go by.

U13 drew 1-1

The U13's won their first point of the season with a fine performance in their first Saturday game. Captain Jordan Davis was outstanding in centre midfield and scored the equaliser having earlier hit the bar. Louis Alterman saw the chance to score the winner blocked on the line.