

Match Reports 29/5/2010

NPRangers V's Moturoa

NPR Prems hosted Moturoa on Sat with 6 wins under their belt but knowing this would probably be our toughest test so far with Rangers sitting top and Moturoa 3rd. We still had memories of the loss we had at home last season, which pretty much cost us our season. Training had been disrupted during the week with weather and we managed to get a training session indoors but unfortunately we picked up a couple of injuries which meant starting players were unavailable for us on this important game. We were still in a confident mood after our win over Hawera the previous week and with 33 goals for and only 4 conceded in 6 games.

The game started off pretty well with, I think, Moturoa wanting it more in the tackles and general commitment. Saying that, our guys got the ball on the deck from the start and the movement and passing were great to watch but we still need to work on the talking. Our first goal came from a nice corner floated over by Mark Wood which was met by a great jump from Mickey Stevens who smashed it into the back of the net, a great start to a pretty even game. Moturoa still pressed and to their credit started finding their danger men more and more and this wasn't helped by at times poor defending on our part with too much standing off and ball watching.

Nick Jones picked up the ball out wide and played into their young lad's feet inside our 18 yard box and unmarked, he slotted it nicely. 1-1 at half time and the good thing was the boys didn't drop their heads, they carried on attacking and while I think we played the better football, Moturoa showed the heart in all the 50/50's. Moturoa kept pressing after the half and Liam Munro got a couple of vital tackles on to stop goal scoring opportunities. Our second goal came with another floated ball from Mark Wood it was met at the far post by Ryan Munro who headed it back across goal and Matt Goodey came running in to finish it very nicely. 2-1 and a good end-to-end game for the crowd but not for the coach. Shortly after our second we could have had a 3rd with I think 3 consecutive clearances off the Moturoa line. Then Moturoa could have had a 2nd when the young lad who scored Moturoa's 1st went through again unchallenged for a 1 on 1 with Jeff Yates in goal - Yates pulled off a great stop. Moturoa then did get their equalizer when a cross bounced around our 18 yard box, again not met by any of our defenders, and was miss-hit to the far post which found Moturoa's striker unmarked who then found the back of the net. Moturoa had a player sent off in the last 5 who I didn't actually think deserved to be considering another challenge from behind on Mickey Stevens was let go without any cards!!!! The boys came off feeling disappointed with the final result but it just shows their own expectations and they should be proud of their season to date considering how far they have come from last season.

It was hard from a coach's point of view giving M.O.M after the team display. Mickey Stevens looked a different class out there, Matt Goodey in the middle of the park was composed and played some nice football at times, and James Graham at left midfield for the first time gave us that solid platform to start our attacks down the left. But for me the M.O.M was Mark Wood this week, most of our attacks came from Woody's side and he played some smart passes around the park and worked hard defensively, all I asked from him before the game. The boys have a tough game away this week against Taradale in the Chatham Cup then another league game on Monday vs FDMC at Merrilands Domain. Let's get down and support the boys.