

NPRangers Masters v Waitara 31/7/10

The first encounter of the season and the lads were up for the game, the sun was out but it was a little bit windy down at Waitara.

A change in line up saw us without a goalkeeper, (broke a fingernail before the game), so up stepped the replacement, standing all of 5feet 9inches tall and weighing in at a colossal 50kg wet through was Callum Stuart. A majestic display in the goals for the first half of the game, he pulled off some great saves and could quite easily secure the spot for himself.

Lost the toss again so we kicked off the first half off the game and soon had Waitara on the defensive for the first 5 minutes and then the tables turned. Waitara certainly had a game plan and they took the game to us and pressurized our defence and this tactic seemed to work for them as we lost our ability to pass the ball to each other. The first goal came from an attacking move from the Masters, Pete Swann and Dickie Smith both went charging down the left flank only to lose the ball and Waitara were quick to capitalize on the empty space left by the dynamic duo and punished us by putting the ball into the back off the net.

Their second goal came from some poor work in the midfield were we again lost the ball and again they punished us by putting the ball into the net. This seems to be a trait for the Masters at the moment, gifting teams some easy goals. The Masters were definitely not out off this game and could have had a couple of goals of their own, but poor finishing and a lack of composure always seemed to be the winner and the efforts always went wide or over the bar apart from when Terry Van Dillen was brought down in the box and he calmly slotted the resulting penalty. Half time came with Waitara leading two goals to one.

The second half was a completely different game with the Masters taking complete control from the start and this soon paid off with some fine football being played which resulted in Kevin Saunders converting his first of the day. This was soon to be added by another from Kev from some fine football by Rob Stuart saw him beat three players and wipe in a cross which Kev met. The Masters were on a high now and were restricting the Waitara team from playing their football and this allowed the Masters to control the game and set the pace which was often fast and accurate football. Terry Van Dillen added another to make the score a bit better in favor of the Masters. A couple of changes to the lineup so the introduction of Shanan who slotted into the back four in place of Ronnie and things stayed more or less the same until Kevin completed his hat trick with a fine third goal to add to his tally.

Final score 5-2 to NPRangers Masters .