

A miserable wet day greeted the team as it turned up to a sodden and in some places underwater Swansea Park, the overnight rain had made playing conditions in Stratford very trying to even contemplate playing football and the early decision was to close the ground, some quick thinking by the Stratford team had players jumping in cars and onto phones and we moved the game to St Marys Diocesan School which had surprisingly been unaffected by the weather.

As a team we had made a call at the start of the season to start our games with the strongest 11 and this we did with great effect, playing into a slight breeze in the first half and with the sun on their backs the girls started playing some great passing football at times having the Stratford team guessing where the ball was, right from the first whistle the passing was fluent and to feet the only thing letting the girls down in the first 20 minutes was how quiet they were and how compact we played, not using the full width of the pitch.

Mary Trueman playing her 2nd to last game before departing to Aussie played I believe her best game for the club, involved in most aspects of the game in defence and attack she was instrumental in most of the goals that were scored in the first half, these coming from Millie O'Connor - Mille Clegg - Mary Trueman and Kate Martin scoring her first goal for the club, (Well Done Kate), the girls all over the Stratford side at halftime led 5 v 1, with all 11 players deserving a mention of some sort for the way they played the first 45mins of note, Mille Clegg's pace and ball skills, Millie O' Connors first touch, was worthy of special mention.

Having a squad of 16 meant a number of changes to the team, and at halftime 5 changes were made some enforced earlier than expected with Chantelle Broadhurst (nasty head knock) and Tania Robbertsen (ongoing back problems) had to be substituted before the end of the first half, at the start of the second half the team welcomed back Sarah Chambers after a few weeks off with injury, and to the girls credit they continued to pass the ball around and play the game the way the game is meant to be played, Stratford did lift their effort in the second half and competed well and the half was shared 1 v 1, with a final score of 6 v 2 a fair result of the game. The girls have been training very well and it was great to see the effort from all 16 players, when the subs came on at halftime they competed for the ball and at most times won it, those in the team whose touch is still being worked on made up for it in commitment and heart, there was not a lot I could say at the end of the day, the team was a pleasure to coach and it was pleasing to see the effort the players are putting in, I would love to mention them all but players of note for this game were;

Mary Trueman - Player of the Day, a dominating player in the middle of the park

Erina Brotherston - Another great game as Sweeper, Erina ran all day made some telling tackles and played a first class offside trap

Kate Martin - A rock in the middle of the defence, now building some confidence in herself Kate now beats players to the ball and getting better by the day in the air.

PS: It's great to see what the girls are learning at training coming into the game on a Sunday, Thanks Bernie - Tara - Sarah - Emma B for going wide at free kicks, and to you all for the pass and moves, you have a very happy coach!!