



Tuesday March 30, 2010

ACADEMY TEAMS WIN, TIE ONE IN LOCAL DERBY GAMES U16's win again, U18's tie with North Meck Soccer Club

From Coach Gunn:

It was a local derby day and certainly a good performance from the team. The early interchanges were very stop-start, with many fouls called, disrupting the flow of the game. Once we settled into a rhythm we started to move the ball quite well and began to put pressure on the North Meck back four. Charlotte took the lead when Zhuvonte Wilson hit in a long range cross/shot from 35 yards out that caught the North Meck keeper off his line. A little fortuitous perhaps, but still a good reward for quality attacking play and asking questions of the opponent. The lead was doubled before half time when Ben Burdon continued his rich vein of goal scoring form. Conor Keeley fed a through ball for Burdon to run onto, and then coolly slip the ball under the oncoming keeper. The second half was very pleasing, in that the team kept a composed shape and made it very difficult for North Meck to break down. In possession we passed well and threatened to score, and then after each attack the team was resilient and made life difficult for our opponents. Both teams had other chances to score, but overall a fair result and a solid effort from the team.

From Coach Butler:

Charlotte played some very good attacking soccer in the first half. We had several half chances but no clear cut chance at goal. Our possession and penetration were good but we lacked the final touch in the final third. That changed in the 45th minute when Jake Keating played in a long curling cross from the left side that Conner Miller flicked on with his head to the far post. Nick Barnhorst delayed his run and volleyed it into the goal from the right side. Our defensive shape was very good and we did not give away any chances in the first period. That changed in the second half where North Meck piled on the pressure at the beginning of the half playing three forwards very high and getting the ball forward as early as possible. Although we defended well, in the 78th minute a long high ball was misjudged at the back and a North Meck midfielder cut in behind us to score low into the bottom left corner of the goal to make it 1-1.

The two teams next will return to Florida on April 10th and 11th to play IMG Academy and the Clearwater Charges.



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