



Monday March 22, 2010

ACADEMY TEAMS WIN THREE OUT OF FOUR ON THE ROAD

U16's win both, U18's win one

From Coach Gunn:

On Saturday the 16s got off to a tremendous start in the 7th minute with Ben Burdon slotting a ball home from a through pass from Zhuvonte Wilson. Burdon doubled the lead in the 17th minute of the half finishing off a through pass down the left from Kyle Parker. The first half was truly impressive soccer wise, with Charlotte connecting quality passes and continuously putting Weston under pressure. The second half was just as impressive but for very different reasons. After the break Weston really turned the heat up throwing everything they had at us. Their passing was skillful and precise, but every Charlotte player buckled down and defended with spirit and conviction. By the end of the game Weston had tried every which way but could not find an opening in the water tight Charlotte defense. The field conditions were poor, and a strong crosswind affected play throughout, but none of this took away from a very solid workmanlike performance. The team passed, penetrated and scored to establish the upper hand, and then defended doggedly to see off a formidable onslaught.

Sunday morning's game came quickly, but the team was ready and raring to go again. We started the game with a strong wind behind us, and managed to keep Miami FC Kendall under pressure for long periods of the half. The initial breakthrough came when Ben Burdon finished a long pass from Austin Yearwood. Burdon had earlier hit the cross bar on a well timed through ball. In the second half, playing into the wind, we continued to win our individual battles and make quality forays on the Miami goal. Harper Williams came close rattling the crossbar with a well struck shot from distance, and then the Miami keeper came up with a flurry of saves on good chances. The eventual game winner came off a long throw by Coner Keeley. The ball was flicked on by Matt Brown at the near post and then finished off by Drew Brown on the volley at the far post. Minutes later the lead was increased to 3-0 when Ben Burdon capitalized on a mix up between the Miami keeper and a defender after Ben Kern had played a lofted pass forward. Charlotte let our only goal in of the weekend on a redirected free kick after our defense failed to pick up runners. The goal injected more life into the Miami team who had been dead and buried, but once again the defense saw off the best the Florida team could muster. Jeremy Gunn commented, "Overall a tremendous two days of soccer. Naturally the players were happy with two positive results, but more impressive still was that we showed incredible resilience to stick to task, buckle down, and defend against some very good players. A well earned pat on the back for everyone involved."

From Coach Butler:

On Saturday the U18s played in very difficult surroundings winning 3-2 against Weston FC. Not only was the pitch very poor and the windy blustering but the team had to endure a sound check for a local band for 88 minutes of the 90! The U18s got off to a fast start when in the fifth minute Conner Miller headed home the first goal. Robby Beatty hooked the ball behind the Weston back four and a communication mistake between the center backs and the goal keeper meant that Miller could head into an open goal. In the 12th minute Asa Kryst dribbled down the left side of the field, beat the right back and got to the touch line. Once there he composed himself and pulled the ball back to the penalty spot where a streaking Michael Nelli smashed it into the top right hand corner. At 2-0 the team relaxed too much and let Weston in too many times. The tide turned and Weston hit the post and created three very dangerous chances. In the 29th minute Weston got the break through with a well worked goal down our right side. The second half did not start well and within 46 seconds of the restart Weston pulled even. A big cross to the back post was knocked back across the face of the goal where a Weston player knocked the ball home. The team showed great character and got the break through when Kyle Searles played a first time ball wide on the left to Jake Keating. Keating prepared the ball and crossed deep to the far post. Asa Kryst took the ball in his stride on the volley and passed in over the top of the goal keeper making it 3-1. The goal held up for the win for CSA.

Sunday against Miami Kendall was always going to be tough. We had several nagging injuries and in the end went down 1-0 to a good Kendall team. We tried to play good soccer but had a hard time connecting passes and had to defend for most of the half. The second half proved to be more of the same. Miami got on the score sheet in the 28th minute from a corner kick that ended up being a free header that the Miami player headed in to the top left hand corner. Ironically, the goal seemed to add life to our boys and Asa Kryst went close on two occasions in the last 10 minutes. In the last minute we had a free kick in the opponent's half that Nick Hensley struck into the box with all 10 out field players waiting in the box. The goal keeper mishandled the ball but we could not stuff the rebound home. "It was a good weekend of soccer overall", said Richard Butler. "It was different circumstances for the two teams. The U16s played very good soccer where the U18s ground out a result on Saturday and then tried to hang in there on Sunday. Sometimes this happens. We are now looking forward to hosting North Meck on Sunday."

The two teams will next face Charlotte rivals North Meck on Sunday March 28th at Davie Park.



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