

December 20th, 2009

Academy Teams split With South Carolina United FC

U18s win, U16s lose



On a bright crisp Sunday afternoon the U16 Charlotte Soccer Academy (CSA) team took to the Davie Park turf to take on the South Carolina United FC (SCUFC) team based out of Charleston, SC. CSA lined up in a 4-4-2 while SCUFC stated with a 4-3-3 formation. CSA started well with lots of possession and in the 13th minute went close after Roland Minogue shot wide after a cross from Conor Keeley. Ben Burdaon later managed to wriggle free after a good ball down the line from Ben Kern but his shot was saved at the near post by the SCUFC keeper. The defenders for CSA were performing

well and limited the opposition to limited play in the final third. Eventually, after a Jake Keating shot was saved and a good deep cross from Minogue was turned away the breakthrough came. In the 44th minute CSA were awarded a corner kick on their right side and Austin Yearwood curled the ball directly into the goal at the back post. The half ended at 1-0 CSA. The second half was a different game and SCUFC came out strongly to try and get back on level terms. It did not take long. In the 47th minute after some sustained pressure SCUFC got the ball down their left side and combined to get a good cross into the back post area.

The right midfielder was there to head the ball home from four yards out to make it 1-1. In the 56th minute Yearwood hit the bar with a stunning 25 yard free kick that beat everybody but the woodwork. The game then opened up as each team went for the win. It was to prove a fruitful day for the U16 SCUFC team as in the 56th minute a back header was flicked on over the top of goalkeeper Stefen Knapp into an empty goal. Although CSA continued to press it was not to be. The starting team with substitutions in parenthesis was as follows:



GK Jaron Bradley (Stefen Knapp GK)
LB Austin Yearwood
CB Matt Brown
CB Brandon Kardos
RB Ben Kern (Bennett Yort RB)
LMF Jake Keating (Drew Brown RMF)
CMF Harper Williams (Santiago Patino CMF)
CMF Roland Minogue
RMF Asa Kryst
CF Conor Keeley
CF Ben Burdon (Kyle Parker CF)



The U18 game got under way at 2pm also at Davie Park. Both teams went with a 4-4-2 formation. In an open affair to start with both team went close. CSA missed a tap-in from three yards out in the first minute when a ball from Giuseppe Gentile flashed across the face of the goal and Nick Barnhorst could not connect. SCUFC had three long throws that CSA did not deal with but they also could not connect. In the 14th minute CSA found a way to goal. Jono Grad won a first header at the half

way line that was then flicked on by Conner Miller to the feet of Gentile. He dribbled the ball into the box from 30 yards out and beat the keeper after a somewhat fortunate bounce off the oncoming goalie. SCUFC looked to play into the center forwards and combine on several occasions but solid defending from the back four dealt with the situations presented. In the second half CSA maintained control of the game but due to poor possession continually had to deal with the SCUFC counter attack and were fortunate not to give a goal away on the break. In what turned out to be an end to end finish CSA hit the woodwork and had a one on one chance saved as SCUFC pushed forward with four payers up front. At the end of the day it remained 1-0 to CSA. The starting team with substitutions in parenthesis was as follows:

GK Trent Johnson (Nick Hensley GK)
LB Tyler Adams (Will O'Brien)
CB Keith Pittman
CB James Nero
RB Evan Kent
LMF Alex Leonard (sean Cogan CMF)
CMF Robbie Beatty (Andrew Sperr LMF)
CMF Jono Grad
RMF Nick Barnhorst (Kyle searles RMF)
CF Giuseppe Gentile (Michael Nelli LMF)
CF Conner Miller (Andrew Benningfield CF)

In earlier play the U14 pre-Academy squad beat the U14 SCUFC 6-0 in a game dominated by CSA. The next games for the Academy program will be on January 8th and 9th 2010 against Birmingham United and Atlanta Fire United respectively here in Charlotte.