

**09/04/2011**

Ellerslie vs Papatoetoe

Halftime Score: 1-0 Ellerslie

Fulltime Score: 3-0 Ellerslie

Goals: Will Roper 2, Warrick Hart 1

Man of the Match: Will Roper

We faced a Papatoetoe side with plenty of spirit after they had belted North Force the week before 6-0. However they returned to earth early in the match when it became obvious to them that Ellerslie was a different proposition.

We again played well at times and were in no danger of letting the points go south - It took half an hour though before the ever dangerous Will Roper struck a ball on the volley from about 20 metres out, tucking it neatly under the crossbar and out of the reach of a desperate and flailing goalkeeper.

We took that lead into the break and felt the odd goal may not be enough to secure the points, and we needed to press on and kill the game off as there was still plenty of endeavour in the Papatoetoe effort. It took a while to get our second, but it was after many opportunities had been created. Nathan Palmer, who was having a quiet afternoon by his own high standards, ran deep into the opposition penalty area and cut back a driven ball across the face of goal for Warrick Hart to compete with a defender for the glory of the finish. Word is Waz missed out and og should take its place on our goal scoring chart.

We then dominated the match and our fitness was superior, meaning Papatoetoe chased us for the last 10 minutes, hanging out for the final whistle and a reprieve from the debilitating cramps. Then to round things off nicely, man of the match Will Roper struck a superb left foot volley past a motionless goalkeeper for our third of the afternoon to secure the points and make his coach happy.

Goalkeeper Tim Hawes, while not troubled, looked composed and offers a good foundation for a defensive unit that enjoyed a first clean sheet of our league campaign. Callum Brown and Mike Ritchie are developing a very good partnership in the middle of the back four, and I think Paul Hooper has put in very good performances to date sitting in front of the defence in a holding role.

Again I would find it hard not to mention the work rate and ability on the ball of our young midfield group of Eddie Sillars, Scott Wallace, Yuri Agarkov and Peter Algie who together took hold of the game helping out in defence and putting defence spitting balls through for the likes of Will, Nathan and Warrick to latch onto making us look very dangerous going forward. Crowd favourite Amadou Hamadi put in a good performance off the bench to show any neutral watching that we are blessed with entertainers at this club, and are enjoyable to watch. All in all, a good day at the office and much to look forward to as we get under way.

Kind regards

Warren Parke  
Ellerslie AFC First Team Coach