Match report #10

Shannonside U12 Boys (Amber team) vs. Carrig Celtic , Sat 03/02/24 @ 14:30, League Div2

Our 7th league game of season and we travelled to Carrigkerry for the 14:30 kick-off. What a game between two very evenly match teams. First half started with both teams having early opportunities, Darragh Whelan weaving through the Carrig defence and getting his shot off that Luke King saved well at his near post. For the resulting counter attack, Jack Fitzgibbon made a comfortable save from a long range effort and moments later, our own Luke Fitzgibbon just missed top bins from an unbelievable shot on the Right hand side. It was end to end, with some great passages of play creating the spaces and opportunities. Luke and Darragh started so well, showing lovely trickery to create space and beat their markers and always playing with their heads up. Luke had the ball in the net on 12 minutes following some fantastic interplay between John Hanlon, Darragh and Luke, but was marginally offside. The same 3 players combining so well as they did vs. Dromore. Adam Lawlor was tasked with keeping the 2 Carrig CBs busy all day and he did it brilliantly. Adam is the fastest player on our team and he was well marshalled throughout the opening exchanges, but his positional sense and intelligence is unbelievable. Michael Cribbin was having his best and most influential game a constant threat with his direct running on the right, winning numerous free kicks and throw ins in attacking positions. The introduction of Tomas Greaney in the more unfamiliar position of CF brought renewed energy and determination and you would think he has played there all his life! Brilliant impact and every week, Tomas is so important for us and his strength, determination and work rate is off the charts, never mind his tackling and attacking instincts. Half time and it was 0-0.

Second half started and similar to the 1st half. Then Carrig started to carry more a threat and John Keane, Noah O Malley, John Hanlon and our captain for the day Dale Fitzgibbon were busier. Dale was again suburb in the sweeper role, mopping up any of the balls in behind and he just senses danger and is always in the right place at the right time. Is there defender in the league playing better than Dale at the moment? Noah in recent games has brought more physicality to his play and his well timed interceptions were badly needed. On the flanks, both Johns offered the defensive stability and attacking width throughout. A fantastic Carrig move opened up our defence, but Jack Fitzgibbon is in fine form and made 2 world class saves within minutes of each other. Allison Becker take note!! That was the kick start we needed and Michael Cribbin was threatening the through balls and well placed free kicks. The 1st goal was always going to be crucial and Darragh produced amazing piece of skill and shot from 25m out that came off the crossbar and Luke was on hand to volley in the rebound. 1-0 and 15 minutes remaining. Our 2nd came within 5 minutes and again Luke and Darragh were causing mayhem in the Carrig box and it fell to Darragh who calmly slotted to the bottom corner. And with all the momentum, our 3rd came again from those two, Luke weaving his way into the box and was brought down and Darragh slotted home the penalty. What a performance from both Luke and Darragh throughout, definitely their best of the season, for skill and work rate.

3-0 final score and really there was nothing between the teams. Thanks to the parents for their support and to Stephen Roche who refereed a brilliant and fair game offering advice and words of encouragement to the players throughout. Next game will be on Saturday 17/02/24 vs Granagh, KO 12:00 in the 2nd round of the Desmond League Cup.

Team: Jack Fitzgibbon, John Hanlon, Dale Fitzgibbon (c), Noah O Malley, John Keane, Michael Cribbin, Luke Fitzgibbon, Darragh Whelan, Adam Lawlor, Tomas Greaney.

Scorers: Darragh Whelan x2, Luke Fitzgibbon