Match report #11

Shannonside U12 Boys (Amber team) vs. Granagh , Sat 17/02/24 @ 12:00, League Cup

We welcomed Granagh for the 2nd round of the League Cup on a damp day in Shanagolden. The lads started well, with the midfield 3 of Luke Fitzgibbon (captain for the day), Darragh Whelan and Michael Cribbin attacking from the 1st whistle, winning a number of corners in quick succession. At times the attacking play was brilliant to watch, with John Hanlon and Tomas Greaney looking to join the attack at every opportunity from their wing back positions. Cillian as even was pressing the Granagh Centre Backs at every opportunity and not allowing them to play out from the back.

1st goal of the game came on 15 minutes following great work by Darragh down the left and he crossed for Luke who caused mayhem in the Granagh box and the ball fell for John to score his 5th of the season from wing back!! Great strike leaving the Granagh keeper no chance. Granagh came into the game and our CBs of Dale Fitzgibbon and John Keane needed to keep concentrating to keep Granagh out. Jack Fitzgibbon was called upon to make his customary saves for two long range efforts in quick succession. Adam Lawlor, James Tobin and Noah O Malley were introduced on the 15th minute and brought energy and determination to our play, James continuing his fine form of recent games, Noah as ever, always in the right place at the right time and Adam making so many great runs into space that our final ball just couldn't find him.

Second half started as the first ended, with the lads well on top but still without that important 2nd goal. Within 5 minutes of the restart, Luke picked up a loose kickout 35m from goal & off he went, ghosting past 3 players and scoring under the Granagh keeper. Great skill, determination and a cool head to finish, for his 6th of the season. 2-0 and they really started to play to their potential. Darragh was at his magical best, causing Granagh problems every time he was on the ball & again, he showed great awareness and constantly helped out his defence. On the other wing, Michael was showing all his skills, with cuts, pullbacks and rollovers, always looking to play in Adam and James at every opportunity. Jack made a fantastic diving save to his left after 10 minutes to keep Granagh scoreless, brilliant stop with the sun in his eyes, pushing the ball past his post to safety. That was an important save. Adam had 2 shots in quick succession, the 2nd of which was a brilliant effort, destined for the top corner only for a fabulous save from the Granagh keeper.

They kept going, looking for the 3rd, John Keane, now playing at wing back, having 2 shots at goal and James being denied by some last gasp defending. It wasn't all one way as we needed Tomas and Dale to make some covering clearances as Granagh moved the ball quickly to attack. Our 3rd goal came from Darragh and it fully deserved with a finish to the bottom corner for his 13th of the season. Wow!

3-0 it finished and many thanks to John Fitzgerald who refereed brilliantly, assisting the players throughout and explaining his decision making. Thanks to the parents for supporting the team and to Granagh for travelling and we will meet them once more in the league before the end of season.

We are now in the Quarter Finals of the cup where we will play GB A at home, date TBC. Our next league game will be on Saturday 02/03/24 vs Askeaton-Kilcornan (away), KO TBC in a Top of the Table clash between 2 very evenly matched teams.

Team: Jack Fitzgibbon, John Hanlon, Dale Fitzgibbon, John Keane, Tomas Greaney, Michael Cribbin, Luke Fitzgibbon (C), Darragh Whelan, Adam Lawlor, James Tobin, Cillian O Malley.

Scorers: John Hanlon, Luke Fitzgibbon, Darragh Whelan.