Match report #13

Shannonside U12 Boys (Amber team) vs. Breska, Sat 23/03/24 @ 12:00 (Challenge)

We welcomed Breska for a challenge match on a cold and windy afternoon in Shanagolden, thankfully the rain stayed away for the most part. Game started brightly with both teams evenly matched. We had the benefit of a strong wind in the 1st half and Josh O Mahoney, Darragh Whelan, Luke Fitzgibbon and Michael Cribbin were able to apply pressure to the Breska restarts. Darragh was in fine form, weaving his magic from the left, Dale was dominant in the middle of midfield and Michael was having a great game stretching the Breska midfield with his direct running. We didn't have it our own way and Breska posed plenty of attacking threat. We had a new CB pairing of Jack Fitzgibbon (our captain for the day) and John Hanlon and they played as if they were there all season. Either side of them were John Keane and Tomas Greaney who offer so much defensively as well as from an attacking threat down both sides. Breska took the lead before half time with a well worked passage of play, leaving Luke with no chance. Sam Lewis and Sean Cribbin played the last 10 minutes for the ½ with both bringing increased energy and attacking threat to our play. Both with fine long range efforts that were well saved. We had a number of good chances, but it was 0-1 to Breska at the break and all to play for.

2nd half started and the wind had actually calmed down! and it was a brilliant game of football with both sides that served up 4 goals. Dale replaced Luke in goals as Jack continued to impress at Centre Back, winning tackles and spreading the play, such great distribution from Jack all game. Huge credit to both Luke and Dale who will play in any position for the team and always contribute and give 100% commitment. Brilliant attitudes to have. Luke picked up where Dale left off and was impressive in midfield, covering every blade of grass. John Keane and Darragh were causing Breska all sorts of problems on the left, with John having one of his best games of the season. On the right, Michael and Tomas were combining brilliantly, with Michael equally having one of his best games of the season. Within minutes of the restart, Darragh had us level and 5 minutes after that, he had us ahead. Both goals showcasing his brilliant individual skills and sublime finishing to the bottom corners. Both Tomas and John Keane went close with long range shots as they enjoyed the attacking element of their game, but also on hand defensively using their physicality to win their duels. John Hanlon was really growing into his new sweeping role, covering the space well, making his tackles and confidently playing the ball out from the back. Breska made it 2-2 with a shot from just inside the box, leaving Dale with no chance. Josh O Mahoney, leading the line was putting the Breska defence under immediate pressure with his pressing, allowing Michael, Luke and Darragh to always play on the front foot. Michael showing neat footwork on many occasions to get away from his marker and was looking to play the through balls. Darragh was everywhere and was of course brilliant offensively, but never neglected his defensive duties. With 12 minutes remaining, Darragh had his hat trick, John Hanlon winning the ball at the back and releasing Sam who fed Darragh down the left. From there, Darragh weaved past 2 defenders and finished. Brilliant play and another classy finish. 3-2 and for the remaining minutes, Sean and Sam were back on the pitch, Sam now as wing back as we moved Tomas up front! Sean was linking well down the left and Tomas was such a handful for the Breska CB's, brilliant effort and he fully deserved a goal. It ended 3-2 and was a very entertaining game, with players playing in multiple positions which was great for their development and enjoyment.

Many thanks to Sean Behan who again refereed brilliantly and let the game flow. Thanks to the parents for supporting the team and to Pat and his Breska for travelling. Our next league game will be on Saturday 30/03/24 vs Ballingarry (home), KO TBC in another Top of the Table clash.

Team: Dale Fitzgibbon, Jack Fitzgibbon (C), Tomas Greaney, John Hanlon, Michael Cribbin, Luke Fitzgibbon, Darragh Whelan, Josh O Mahoney, Sean Cribbin, Sam Lewis.
Scorers: Darragh Whelan x3