Match report #7

Shannonside U12 Boys (Blue team) vs. Feenagh Sat 20/01/24 @ 12:30, League Div3 game

It was almost a storm before the storm as Gale force winds greeted us in Feenagh for the 12:30 kick-off, but at least it was dry! Game started with a strong travelling support in attendance. Conditions made it difficult to play, but credit to both teams, they were looking to play the ball on the ground at every opportunity. Within the first 5 minutes, Mark Barry was called into action, making 3 fine saves to keep the score 0-0 as we struggled to cope with playing against the wind. That was the quick realisation we needed to get going and slowly we grew into the game, with Freddie and Sam Lewis a threat down the left hand side and Josh O Mahoney and Michael Mullane threatening down the right. On 10 minutes we took the lead through Michael. Sam and Freddie combined down the left and Sam swung in a delightful ball that Oisin played back to Michael 1st time and he rifled it into the top corner. Great assist and quick thinking by Oisin and what a finish by Michael. The goal settled them down and Tommo Kearns in the middle of midfield wasn't giving the Feenagh midfield a chance to break forward and Oisin wasn't giving the Feenagh defence any time on the ball. Michael was at his magical best, with his quick feet and even quicker brain starting so many of our attacks. He was a threat all day and was having one of his best games of the season. In defence, Will O Donnell (our captain for the day) and Sean Cribbin had gotten used to the conditions and were now controlling and using their strength winning the tackles and starting attacks. With 5 minutes to ½ time, Feenagh scored direct from a free kick that left Mark no chance. Brilliant Free kick as it curled over the wall into the roof of the net. 1-1 at half time and plenty to play for.

Second half was all one way, but the Feenagh defence held firm with some excellent defending and their Goalkeeper was just in brilliant form, making countless saves, left, right and brave in getting down for so many shots at our attackers feet. Tomas Fitzgerald was introduced at half time to make his debut and he settled straight into the game at right back allowing Josh into midfield. Tomas is going to be a fantastic player for the club in the coming years, such potential and can play off either foot! Sean Cribbin was now in central midfield and dominated the Feenagh kickout. It was his interception and interplay with Michael and Sam that set Freddie up for a composed finish giving the GK with zero chance. You wouldn't see such composure and finish in the premier league and a deserved goal for how well Freddie was playing. As the half wore on, the chances (and saves) kept coming. Sam, Josh, Michael, Sean and Freddie all had their chances, but again, it was going to be something special to beat this keeper. Even the quick thinking Josh at set play time couldn't unlock the resolute Feenagh defence. At the back, Will and Tommo held firm with any attacks and for the 2nd week in a row Will had his best game of the season, not only making the tackles and using his strength, but his positional sense was just brilliant, always in the right place at the right time. It finished 2-1 and just before the rain swept in! We were missing Colm O Sullivan and Charlie Frawley to illness and we wish them a speedy recovery, hopefully in time for our next match at home to St. Itas on Saturday 03/02/24, time TBC. Thanks to Shannonside Ultra supporters group for their continued support and special mention to Liam O Donnell for babysitting our VEO camera all match!! It was in good hands! Thank to S. Hartnett for refereeing and to Feenagh for hosting us.

Team: Mark Barry, Will O Donnell, (C), Sean Cribbin, Josh O Mahoney, Freddie Lewis, Sam Lewis, Oisin Kelly, Tomas Fitzgerald. Scorers: Michael Mullane and Freddie Lewis.