Match report #8

Shannonside U12 Boys (Blue team) vs. St. Itas Sat 03/02/24 @ 12:30, League Div3 game

Our 7th league game of season and we welcomed St. Itas to Shanagolden on a wet and damp morning. First half started with both teams having early opportunities and Mark Barry was required to make his saves. We were looking to attack at every opportunity through our full backs Josh O Mahoney and Freddie Lewis, the final ball was just missing and the St. Itas defence held firm. I'm not sure how much Josh and Freddie ran all match, but it must have been a record! Itas played direct and with two constantly up top, the ball was played quickly into them at every opportunity and our CBs of Colm O Sullivan and Will O Donnell were kept busy. After 10 minutes, St. Itas were 1-0 up as the ball bounced around the box and it was stabbed home giving Mark no chance. That was a wakeup call and we started to grow into the game with some fine passing moves as we played the ball on the ground at every opportunity, with Freddie Lewis, Sam Lewis and Sean Cribbin central to some fine passing combinations. Charlie Frawley was introduced to add some steel to the defence and he never disappoints, winning 100% of his tackles. Mid way through the half we were level, Michael Mullane again with the goal to continue his fine form in recent games. That was Michaels 6th in 7 games. Sam, Sean and Freddie equally tested the St. Itas Gk, but he was equal to every shot at him and was having a fine game. Tommo Kearns was on the pitch at this point and as always, was a real handful for the CBs as we looked to pin them in. Tommo had a fine shot that would have be a certain goal only for a brilliant defensive tackle. Half time and it was 1-1 and probably even on the balance of play.

Second half started and similar to the 1st half, it was very even. St. Itas were always a threat with their quick long balls and on the counter attack and were just that bit quicker to the 2nd balls. Oisin Kelly as always was closing down the space and had ½ a chance but for a final block close to the line. James Moroney (making his U12 debut) allowed for fresh legs and intelligent passing and what a player James is going to be for the club in the future. As we pushed forward, we were undone by quick counter attacks and clinical finishing with the score ending up 1-4 to St. Itas. Certainly a much closer game than the scoreline suggests and as always, the players either win or learn and I am sure there is much they can learn from the game and a good performance in spells throughout. Well done to St. Itas and we might have a chance to meet again later in the year.

Thanks to the parents for their support and to Ger O Connor who refereed a fair game offering advice and explaining his decisions to the players throughout. Next game will be on Saturday 17/02/24 vs Dromore, KO 10:30 in the 1st round of the Desmond League Cup.

Team: Mark Barry, Will O Donnell, Colm O Sullivan, Josh O Mahoney, Freddie Lewis, Sean Cribbin, Sam Lewis, Michael Mullane, Oisin Kelly (C), Charlie Frawley, James Moroney, Thomas Kearns.

Scorer: Michael Mullane