Match report #9

Shannonside U12 Boys (Blue team) vs. Dromore Sat 17/02/24 @ 10:00, League Cup

We welcomed Dromore for the 1st round of the League Cup on a damp day in Shanagolden and what a game it was. Despite the poor conditions, there some fantastic passages of play throughout. Both teams were looking to play the ball from the back and attack at every opportunity. A change of formation for this game seemed to bring the best out of the players. A midfield 4 of Michael Mullane, Tommo Kearns, Freddie Lewis and Sam Lewis were playing some great passes, looking for the ever threatening Josh O Mahoney up front. At the back, Will O Donnell and Charlie Frawley (our captain for the day) and Sean Cribbin were winning their duels and were in fine form, sweeping any lose balls behind and starting our attacks from the back. Behind them, the ever dependable Mark Barry was on hand to deal with any Dromore attacks and shots from range.

Our 1st goal came from a great passing move after 12 minutes, starting off with Tommo winning the ball in midfield, to Josh, onto Freddie who released Sam on the left and he hit a piledriver that the Dromore keeper could only parry and Michael was on hand to tap home for his 7th of the season. It was end to end and a proper cup game. Oisin Kelly, was on the pitch and played in an unfamiliar central midfield role and was having his best game of the season, making tackles, tracking runners and playing nice passes to release our wide players. Josh had the ball in the net a few minutes later but was ruled marginally offside. Had it stood, it was an exceptional finish to the bottom corner. Mark was called upon twice and made comfortable saves and showed exceptional handling.

2nd half started and the conditions weren't improving, but the lads kept on looking to play the ball on the ground. Some of the passing and movement from Sean, Charlie, Freddie, Michael and Sam was brilliant to watch and they opened up the Dromore midfield on numerous occasions. With Josh O Mahoney playing central, he didn't give the Dromore defence any time on the ball as they looked to play it out. Dromore had their chances and Mark Barry was called into action on more than one occasion. With a defence of Charlie, Will and Sean, Dromore were restricted to long range shots or balls over the top to gain field position. Sean was dominant at the back and his physicality stopped countless Dromore attacks and allowed us to quickly transition to attack. Charlie and Will did not miss a tackle all match, what tremendous understanding between these two, considering they haven't played as a central pair in a number of games.

Our 2nd goal came via penalty, won and taken by Freddie Lewis and he stuck it for his 9th of the season as he continues his fine form in this league. Freddie not only has game intelligence, but his physicality and work rate is improving with every game. Outside him, Sam and Michael were just full of direct running, skills and the link up play was tremendous. Sam was having his best game of the season in every aspect of his play. Defensively, these 3 together with Tommo and Oisin in the middle put in an unbelievable shift. 10 minutes to go and Dromore piled on the pressure and they pulled a goal back and It was a tense closing few minutes. On the very last play, Dromore were awarded a penalty that they converted and the game was heading to extra time. Full credit to the players, they never let the heads drop and for the next 20 minutes kept playing as they had all match. There could only be one winner and it was Sam who scored it for his 7th of the season and it was all of his own making, pressing the Dromore midfield into losing possession, charging down the defender and then having the composure to bury it to the bottom corner.

3-2 AET it finished to the delight of the home support. Many thanks to John Fitzgerald who refereed brilliantly. Thanks to the parents for their huge support and to Dromore for travelling.

We are now in the 2nd round of the League cup where we will play NCW C away, date TBC. Our next league game will be on Saturday 02/03/24 vs NCW B at home, KO TBC.

Team: Mark Barry, Will O Donnell, Charlie Frawley (C), Sean Cribbin, Freddie Lewis, Tommo Kearns, Sam Lewis, Michael Mullane, Josh O Mahoney, Oisin Kelly.
Scorers: Freddie Lewis, Michael Mullane &, Sam Lewis