

Hampstead Sharks U12 v Brady Maccabi Reds U12

2nd December 2018

PLENTY OF HUFF AND PUFF BUT LACKED FOCUS

First things first congratulations to Arsenal on their win yesterday, commiserations to Tottenham fans..... except that shouldn't be where this match report begins.....what am I getting at? Well having chatted with Pez we both agree that whilst Hampstead are a very nice team and have some very talented players, our boys seemed to lack focus. We are not suggesting for 1 minute that the boys did not try, they did and with a little more luck we probably would have had a couple more goals ourselves.

Over the last couple of weeks the boys have shown real focus, determination and desire and for whatever the reason, be it they wanted to watch the big the London derby or something else a few of them seemed to be more worried about the pitch being a bit muddy.

As always there were moments where we showed a glimmer of what we could do but and when we did, whilst their centre back was very good, he struggled to keep up with Jacob, Yoni E and Yoni N, we just didn't do that often enough. We also have to give Hampstead credit they were very well organised and made it very difficult for us when in possession.

Despite all of that at half time we were only 1-0 down, Hampstead had missed a penalty and Pez and I said to the boys that we were perhaps a touch lucky to be in this position but it meant we were in with a real shout but we needed to step up the urgency move the ball and get the forward players more involved, unfortunately we were unable to stop Hampstead and for much of the half they peppered our goal. Defensively albeit a bit 'backs to the wall' we stood fairly strong and AJ made some great saves at point blank range. What that meant is with a little over 10mins to go we were only 2-0 down, then a couple good passages of play saw James push a ball through to Yoni E who fought off the defender to make it 2-1. Well I never put anything passed this Brady team we have a funny way of turning things round, but not this time, a combination of fatigue and frustration meant we ended the match 6-1.

When we come up a team like this we have to learn how to organise ourselves, don't give them the space they need and constantly put pressure on the ball which especially last week we did well, so we know they can do it. Next week is another week and we play Hampstead again win, draw or lose, let's show them what Brady can really do and who know what can happen.

Man of the match has to go to AJ, despite 6 goals going past him yesterday he made some great saves and without him the deficit may well have been greater.