

Match Report For Under 18's Scottish Cup Semi Final

The Under 18's were in action again this weekend in their Scottish Cup Final against Menzieshill Whitehall. The team had not played together in some time, however after a quick chat and land warm up the usual team desire to win was back! And the travelling support was also significant!

Dunfermline kick started the scoring early on in the game with a goal from Christopher Campbell, which was quickly followed by another goal from Darren Campbell. Some very good communication and tight man-to-man marking of the pit from Captain Zach Thomson in defence also kept Menzieshill at bay and the fast breaks enabled Dunfermline to take advantage of their superior general fitness and score another four goals, ending the first period 6-0 up.

The second period saw the introduction of some of the younger members of the squad, all of whom played very well and contributed to both the attack and defence. However, inevitably Menzieshill big shot, Lewis Don, came back with a goal in response to some slackened defending. Jake Hinley was also extremely good in goals, saving some very tough shots, despite having only recently recovered from a broken wrist. In the remaining minutes of the quarter Dunfermline were awarded two men up, and Darren Campbell took advantage of this, scoring from a 3-3 formation which the team executed very well. Further goals from Andrew Melville and Craig Wilkinson boosted the Dunfermline score. And the team ended the first half of the game well ahead.

Period three saw some very good work in attack with Dunfermline setting up the arc with ease, however a lack of movement left the team very little in the way of options and few goals were scored from this set up as a result. But the pressure on the team in defence was lessened greatly when the Menzieshill pit attacker was majored out of the game following three major fouls. Beth and Caitlin Mooney, both relatively new to the speed of the game, coped very well and were up and down the pool, managing to hold the ball in order to run down the clock. A second goal for Nicola Tate and Andrew Melville (as well as bags of goals from the Campbell twins) left Dunfermline in a very strong position at the end of the period.

Going into the last period the team were beginning to tire, however the game maintained a high tempo through to the end. Another man up opportunity and a goal for Craig Wilkinson (from his own half) added to the Dunfermline score. Zach Thomson also had several opportunities on goal, however despite his best efforts was unable to put the ball in the net (perhaps some shooting practice required here!!). But youngster, Calum Ironside, showed the team how it was done with a tap in from the back post. And despite the best efforts of the Menzieshill side Dunfermline emerged victors, winning the game 23-5.

The team played well together and if training increases next year, the team could stand a good chance in their ASA Cup Campaign in Spring 2010.

Team and Scorers () : J Hinley, A Johnstone, N Tate (2), A Melville (2), Z Thomson (Capt), D Campbell (7), C Campbell (9), B Mooney, C Ironside (1), C Mooney, J Thomson, K Falconer, C Wilkinson (2)

Coach: Paul Metcalfe

Referees: K Fussell (Western Baths Club) and D Docherty (Warrender)

Table Officials: P Armstrong (Warrender), Mrs J Metcalfe and R Metcalfe (Both Dunfermline)

Zach Thomson (06.12.09)