

Round 3 Match Report

Saturday, 19 April 2008

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

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SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS

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Line up: M. John, D. Cameron, C. Konstas, M. Sacks, L. Grounds, K. Joryeff (B. Cogger 64), G. Greenhill (J. Blackburn 61), Devlin, S. Nicholson, T. Waterson (G. Papadopoulos 45), F. Richards. Subs; E. Christodoulou, A. Pecora.
Goal Scorers: Kyle Joryeff 2

In one of the best V.P.L. matches seen for a long time Melbourne Knights and Sunshine George Cross shared the points after a titanic struggle. Melbourne Knights can consider themselves unlucky not to secure their first win of the season after dominating for long periods. In an amazing finish to this classic the Knights launched an all out assault on Sunshine's goal and it took some heroic saves by Martin John and lady luck that denied the home team their first win of the season. Martin John would not be beaten rescuing his side twice in the final 5 minutes by deflecting goal bound shots onto the wood work. Though the second half was score-less this game had the big crowd at the Knights Stadium on the edge of their seats with both teams giving their all. Chances at both ends came thick and fast and how no more goals were added to the four scored in the first half is a mystery. The Knights began the stronger in the opening half with the Georgies keeper Martin John kept very busy making four diving saves in the first ten minutes. It was the Georgies who stung the home team with a pearl of a goal by Kyle Joryeff after 31 minutes. The wide player cut inside and found space to unleash a dipping shot from 20 metres that struck the underside of the cross bar and bounce in. Within a minute Sunshine's Garry Greenhill had a golden opportunity to make it 2-0 when he found himself with only the keeper to beat. He hesitated in shooting and was forced wide and the opportunity was lost. The Knights were back on level terms with five minutes when a shot by Adrian Zahra was deflected into the net by Kevin Townson. The Georgies almost grabbed the lead again when Fidell Richards fed Gary Greenhill who saw his shot come off the foot of Melbourne Knights keeper Anthony Loncaric with the ball bouncing of the cross bar for a corner kick. The Knights took the lead at the 41st minute mark following Sunshine failure to clear their lines. The ball finished with French star Jean Dubois who found the back of the net. Within two minutes the Georgies came storming back with Fidell Richards setting up Kyle Joryeff for an easy tap in to make it 2-2 at half time. The second half continued in the same vein with Knights dominating possession and the Georgies looking to hit on the break. Danny Tiatto was influential in the middle of the park setting up numerous opportunities with his clever flicks and back heel passes. Tiny winger George Papadopoulos was causing the Knights anxious moments with his speed on the right flank, but he let himself down when it came to shooting at goal. The Georgies were well in it until the 80 minute mark, but ran out of gas. They were a spent force in the closing stages of the match with the Knights raiding from both flanks. It looked odds on a winning goal would come for the home team but Martin John would not be denied to earn his team a very precious point. Coach Andy O'Dell was disappointed with the performance and said it was the first time in his coaching career at the Georgies he had been rolled.

Under 21: MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 2

Sunshine George Cross defeated the Knights 2-1 with Liam McDermott and Robert Schiafone scoring the goals. Even though they got the win it was not an inspiring performance by the Georgies as they struggled against a 10 men Melbourne Knight's team. This coming Sunday the Georgies are at home at the Knights Stadium when they take on Bentleigh Greens. The under 21 kick off at 5.00 and the seniors at 7.00 pm.