

**Team: U16 Girls**

Location: Kingdom Sportscenter | Franklin

Result: T 4-4

Players: Ashley K, Alessandra, JJ, Ema, Aleah, Sumera, Emma, Muriel, Cassie, Hannah, Shelby, Nicole, Alicia

Hope Springs Player of the Game: Muriel

Offensively, the Lions were effective in the counter attack and continued to pressure the opponent deep in the attacking half. Quick combinations in the midfield and penetrating through balls behind the defensive line is where the Lions found most success but just missed out on finding the back of the net in the final third.

Defensively, the Lions were much more aggressive as the game went on and did an excellent job defending in numbers. Deep in the defending half, the Lions were strong in their 1v1 challenges to deny goal scoring opportunities.

Coach Shane was quoted, “I think it was a good 1st game performance by the team. A lot of positives to take from our attacking play and continuing build on our strong defensive unit is the focus now. It is going to take some time until we play our best soccer but it is important that we improve our team performance each week.

Coach Shane nominated Muriel as the player of the game strong defensive effort, work rate on and off the ball, and continues to lead her team in a positive way.

**Team: U15 Boys Blue**

Location: Kingdom Sportscenter | Franklin

Result: L 10-1

Players: Dimitar, Jason, Dominic C, Nikolas, Dominic M, Julian, Owen, Ethan, Gradey, Mick, Enrico, Justin, Kyle

Hope Springs Player of the Game: Dimitar

Offensively, the Lions had a difficult time matching up against the much stronger opponent and were limited in the attack. Due to the high pressure and aggressiveness of the opponent, the Lions could not sustain possession long enough to get numbers in offensive third. The Lions were able to get a goal late in the game after a strong run up the flank and a cross that found Dimitar in front of net and he powered a shot into the goal.

Defensively, the Lions had the shape and formation to get numbers behind the ball but were caught in moments by diving in and not aggressive enough in the defensive third. The Lions had some good moments in their transition to defense but will need some to adjust to the speed and strength of teams in this division.

Coach Shane was quoted, “It was a difficult first game for us but the U15 boys and I are looking forward to the challenge. These strong and fast opponents will only make us better as team heading into the spring season. Back to the training ground this week as we prepare for the next indoor game!”

Coach Shane nominated Dimitar as the player of the game as he tallied numerous goal saving goals as keeper, key defensive stops on defense, and scored his teams lone goal.

**Team: U14 Girls**

Location: Kingdom Sportscenter | Franklin

Result: W 4-1

Players: Erin, Kira, Alexis, Ilana, Milan, Morgan, Camlyn, Audrey, Hannah, Alicia, Nicole

Hope Springs Player of the Game: Hannah

Offensively, the Lions needed some time to settle into the game but eventually took hold of the match after a few early goals. The Lions quick passing in the offensive third gave the attackers space in front of net and they clinically finished their chances.

Defensively, the Lions were disciplined in their formation and defended well throughout the game. The Lions provided cover for their teammates and won their individual 50/50 challenges in key moments.

Coach Shane was quoted, “The girls played a solid overall game today. We maintained possession of the ball, were very strong defensively, and finished their chances to seal the victory.”

Coach Shane nominated Hannah as the player of the game as she maintained the balance of the team at center mid and had a strong performance on and off the ball.

**Team: U12 Girls**

Location: Kingdom Sportscenter | Franklin

Result: W 5-3

Players: Ava B, Lauren, Mia, Rachel, Laura, Marayna, Alyvia, Shiloh, Hope, Ava P, Nicole, Julia

Hope Springs Player of the Game: Lauren

Offensively, the Lions had a slow start to the game and it took some time for the team to get up to match speed. The Lions would find the attacking solution with penetrating through balls in behind the opponent's high defensive line and confidently finished their chances in front of goal.

Defensively, the Lions shifted well as a defensive unit and limited the space for the opponent. The Lions transition to defense excellent and they pressed the ball as a team in the right moments.

Coach Shane was quoted, “The girls put in a tremendous team effort to earn this victory. The first indoor game is always difficult and I believe the team reacted well after a slow start and gained momentum and more confident throughout the game.”

Coach Shane nominated Lauren as the player of the game for her offensive production as she completed her hat-trick to seal the victory.