

Age/Gender: U13 Boys

Location: SportsPlex | Fairborn

Result: 5-2 L

Players: Braxton; Connor C.; RJ; Keaton; Ben; Alex; JR; Noah; Aaron; Max; Josiah; Dominic

Goal(s): Noah; Aaron

Hope Springs Player of the game: Connor C.

Defensively, the young Dutch Lions team had a decent game, they were organized and very focused closing the spaces around the ball carrier and conditioning their passing game. Besides that, the team showed good reactions after losing the ball, with quick defensive transitions. However, the young boys need to be aware of the long distance shots and be more effective on their pressure, being more aggressive to avoid those situations and at the same time cover the spaces around the goal when the ball comes off the wall.

Offensively, the young Lions had a really good performance. It was not perfect because the team couldn't capitalize in scoring goals with the chances they created, but the team showed great organization and were dynamic, with constant movement and using the wingers to take the ball out of pressure. It was really nice to see the boys moving the ball on the ground with confidence and personality, playing in support numerous times. However, the team needs to be more effective in the last moment, finishing with better accuracy those chances.

After the game coach Bruno had the following statement "Today, we can summarize the game in one word "effectiveness". In my eyes, we were the better team in all the aspects except finishing. We had more quality on our ball possession, we had really nice organization, we created numerous chances to score...unfortunately we were not effective enough in that chapter (finishing) and that ended up making the difference. But I need to say this, we played a great match, the boys and everyone need to be proud of what we have done here today, was perhaps the best performance that I have seen of this team, despite the score."

As the Hope Springs player of the match, Coach Bruno selected Connor and said, "I think today Connor was the player that provided balance to our game. He was absolutely amazing in his decisions making on the ball and very active also on our defensive process. I think that with a little bit more of confidence and he could have scored a couple of goals. I also would like to congratulate Noah and Josiah for their performances, they were very focused and involved in the match."