

Team: U16 Girls**Location:** Kingdom Sportscenter | Franklin**Result: W 3-2****Players:** Alessandra, Ashley K, Ema M, Aleah, Sumera, Emma P, Muriel, Cassie, Hannah, Shelby, Nicole, Alicia, Camille,**Hope Springs Player of the Game: Ema M**

Offensively, the Lions maintained momentum in the attack by keeping possession of the ball and being patient in the attacking half of the field. The Lions ability to push numbers forward gave the ball carrier multiple options to create their scoring opportunities. Ema M would eventually get her team on the board with a strong right footed shot that flew into the top corner of the goal and Sumera continued her goal scoring run adding two goals to her season tally.

Defensively, the Lions maintained their defensive organization throughout the game and kept the balance by covering the space behind their teammates. The Lions build-up from the back is much improved and they are doing a much better job keeping possession after recovering the ball from the opponent's attacking players.

Coach Shane was quoted, "Another extremely competitive game between two evenly matched teams. It is great to see our attacking players starting to gain their confidence on the field and it is resulting in excellent goal scoring opportunities. Our defense continues to get stronger and more organized, which adds to a great balance to this team. I was glad to see our girls finish out the close game and secured their first victory as a team!"

Coach Shane selected Ema M. as the Hope Springs Player of the Game for her defensive/attacking work rate, her key defensive challenges on the field, and opening the scoring for her team with a brilliant strike on goal.

Team: U15 Boys Blue**Location:** Kingdom Sportscenter | Franklin**Result: L 6-1****Players:** Dimitar, Jason, Dominic C, Nikolas, Dominic M, Julian, Owen, Ethan, Gradey, Mick, Enrico, Justin, Kyle**Hope Springs Player of the Game: Dominic M**

Offensively, the Lions began the game with a high tempo, quick passing and excellent movement off the ball. The Lions were able to get in behind the defensive line, but could not capitalize on their chances in front of goal. Nik tallied the lone

goal of the game after a combination play up the flank led to a cross into the box and he confidently slotted the ball past the keeper.

Defensively, the Lions were aggressive in their challenges on the field, but it was a difficult task marking up against a stronger and faster opponent. The midfield shifted well as a unit and put in the extra effort in the transition to defense to maintain the defensive organization.

Coach Shane was quoted, “Another challenging game for the boys, but we are continuing to see improvement from our boys each game. The ability to maintain possession of the ball with creative combination plays against a strong opponent really shows the confidence our team is playing with on the field. I was happy with our boys efforts out there and we will continue to improve our team performance each week.”

Coach Shane selected Dominic M as the Hope Springs Player of the Game for his defensive/attacking work rate in the center midfield, his ability to maintain possession of the ball, and communication to his teammates.