

**Team: U16 Girls**

**Location:** Kingdom Sportscenter | Franklin

**Result:** L 3-2

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

**Hope Springs Player of the Game:** Sumera

Offensively, the Lions did an excellent job pushing numbers forward in the offensive transition and were able to create overload 2v1 and 3v2 situations throughout the game. The Lions just missed out on the final pass or extra touch needed in front of goal to increase their chances of scoring. Precise passing and individual skill continue to put the Lions attack in high percentage scoring opportunities.

Defensively, the Lions remained organized and put in a valiant effort to keep the defensive shape intact. A much more aggressive performance from the Lions as they were strong in their tackles to recover the ball. The Lions had trouble dealing with the opponents quick counter attacks and they capitalized on their chances.

Coach Shane shared, "It was a very competitive game that will only make us better as a team. We have a lot of pace and skill on the ball to put us in good scoring opportunities, but we need to make quicker decisions on the ball with a bit of creativity to capitalize on those chances. I was glad to see our girls much more aggressive on defense and that will benefit us playing against fast and stronger teams this spring."

Coach Shane chose Sumera as the Hope Springs Player of the Game for her ability to maintain possession of the ball in the attack, excellent work rate in the game, and her competitive mentality to lead her teammates.

**Team: U12 Boys**

**Location:** Kingdom Sports Center | Franklin

**Result:** 0-5 L

**Players:** Zane, Daniel, Christian, Joseph, Andrew, Sean C, Sean S, Asher, Elias.

**Player of the Game:** Sean S.

Defensively, we had a strong start. Our boys were marking and containing well, which bought us lots of extra time and slowed down most of the attacks. Unfortunately, the other team was quite a bit faster and more physical than us, and the containment slowly lapsed into a less aggressive style. At least half of the opponents goals could have been prevented with a more proactive defensive approach. Most of our lapses came from being overwhelmed with the other teams speed and aggression, but I feel that was mostly due to the age difference and not a lack of physicality on our part.

Again, we started well on offense with a balanced approach that was calm and quick. Our passing was accurate and we had a lot of support from our midfielders early on. We tired pretty quickly on attack. This led to an offense that couldn't transition very well, and a lot of situations where we had the majority of our team in our defensive half, while the ball was on the other end of the field. The tiredness definitely affected our first touch and subsequently we gave up a lot of

balls with a lazy first touch. There were several scenarios where we had breakaways, but we got derailed because of something as simple as a bad touch.

Coach Liam shared, “Given the circumstance that we were roughly 2-3 years younger than most of their players, I was pretty happy with the result. I didn't have a single player who wasn't out there doing the best they could for every minute of the game. Our effort was top notch, but you tire quickly when you are always chasing the game.”

Coach Liam selected Sean S. as the Hope Spring Player of the Game. Sean continuously gave 100% throughout the entire game. He was definitely the hardest worker on the field and tried to play smart the whole time. The other teams coaches even took notice of his impact on the game. Even though all of our players worked incredibly hard, I thought Sean S had the best combination of working smart and hard. He had great situational awareness and was still a productive player through the final minutes when he was incredibly tired.

**Team: U15 Boys Blue**

**Location:** Kingdom Sportscenter | Franklin

**Result: W 6-5**

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

**Hope Springs Player of the Game:** Dominic C

Offensively, the Lions were matched up against another aggressive opponent and needed some time to adjust to the speed of play. The boys started to gain momentum as the game went on and the high tempo attack of the Lions began to put pressure on the opponent's defense. Late in the game, the Lions found themselves down 2 goals and gaining confidence with each goal scored. Rapid combination play and finesse in front of goal was the key factors that resulted in the comeback victory for the Lions.

Defensively, the Lions were much stronger in their challenges on the field which disrupted the opponent's attack and offensive flow. The transition to defense from the Lions was effective and their ability to get numbers behind the ball made it difficult for opponent's attack.

Coach Shane was stated, “What a great performance from the U15 Boys! The boys reacted well after going down a few early goals and kept fighting until the end. They maintained their discipline on offense/defense and were rewarded with a hard fought comeback victory!

Coach Shane selected Dominic C as the Hope Springs Player of the Game for his strong defensive effort, coaching his teammates to keep their organization, and displaying his leadership qualities on the field.