

## BU10 – Game 4

Cheetahs are the fastest land animals alive. They are capable of great speed and agility. Like a pack of Cheetahs, the Boys Under 10 – Team 1 players showed everyone their speed and agility against Team 2. With only 7 players.....yes, we only had seven players.....all the boys played the entire game. Like the Cheetahs, they would sprint with great velocity, rest for a while on the field and then burst forward with renewed energy.

With only seven players, we were clearly the underdog. Players were lying on the field exhausted; they were dousing water on themselves to cool down; they played with cramps in the legs and stomachs....a result of no rest during the game. It was amazing to watch these boys play with so much stamina and passion for the entire game!! We came away with a 2 – 2 tie, but in my books, these boys are all winners!

Despite not getting any rest, the boys did a great job of controlling the play. We had possession of the ball for most of the game. Andrew, Jaydon and Michael Armes were our stellar forwards and midfielders. Eric played the entire game as a defender; he went up against guys who were one and a half time his size and came up with the ball on more than a few occasions. Christopher and Aron rotated as defenders and midfielders. While Michael and Aron took one shift each as goal keeper, it was Anthony who stepped in between the posts to preserve the tie. Anthony continued his incredible plays as goal keeper from the last game, making critical saves and challenging on-rushing players who had passed our defenders.

The boys opened the scoring at the 10 minutes mark. Christopher started a nice play down the left field. He eluded a Team 2 player and quickly slid the ball over to Anthony. Anthony received the pass and made a nice heads-up play to get the ball to Andrew inside the box. Andrew, one of the most accurate kicker in the league made no mistake about where he wanted to place the ball. We were up one to none....and the parents cheered!!

A couple of minutes later, Jaydon almost made it 2 to none with a nice hard shot with his left foot. Team 2 would come back to tie the game at one a side. We would exit the half with a 2 -1 lead. This time, it was Michael who started the play. He wrestled the ball away from Team 2's defender, carried it a few feet and made a nice pass to Jaydon who was rushing to the front of the goal. Team 2's goalie had no chance as Jaydon let ripped a powerful blast.

The boys took a well deserved rest at half time. Team 2 got an early goal in the second half to tie the game. Team 2 was charging as they knew we were getting tired from the lack of rest. The next series of events set these boys apart as not just a good team...but a GREAT team. Anthony stepped back into position of goal keeper and slammed the door shut on team 2's strikers. Christopher and Eric played incredible defense. Michael, Jaydon and Andrew came back into our zone every chance they got to take away scoring opportunities. These guys were showing great burst of speed on the field. I don't know where they found the energy, but they did. Aron went to the front of the goal and had a couple of glorious scoring opportunities.

The boys were responsible defensively. They continued to create scoring opportunities for themselves with great rushes down the side and getting the ball to the on-rushing forwards. Andrew and Jaydon both got the ball to Aron and Michael, and they made everyone's hearts skip an extra beat with the exciting plays.

All in all, it was great team effort. Against all odds, the boys prevailed! The game was a tie, but in my book, it was a moral victory. The boys are still undefeated! Way to go Boys!!