P3 Junior Soccer squad in action-packed start to the season

HK Junior Football League tournament, 22 Sept, Tung Chung

The HKFC Junior Soccer P3 squad (born 2005) started the new season by jumping in ‘at the deep end’ with a Junior Football League tournament on the second Saturday of the season. Entering four untested teams in the 5-a-side event, some 50 players, coaches and parents boarded the coach for Tung Chung – a journey not made any shorter by the long and loud discussion amongst P3’s Minecraft enthusiasts at the back of the bus.

The YMCA Christian College enjoys a rural setting with a backdrop of the Lantau hills and a new artificial pitch. Great location, but there was no time to enjoy the scenery - with a tight schedule, four groups and a team in each group, P3 were soon in the thick of it. With only one practice session under our belts and many new players, coaches were understandably adopting an experimental approach with various formations from the cautious 2-2-0 to a Keegan-esque and unscripted 0-0-4! Things were soon looking promising as every team won their opening game, but subsequent games saw a mixed bag of results, the lack of team practice against more seasoned opposition began to tell. Still by the end of the group stages we’d had more wins and draws than losses, with two of the teams coming near the top of their respective groups and all looking forward to the next rounds.

Unfortunately the schedule had begun to fall behind early in the day, mostly due to slow game changeovers and a shortage of coaches volunteering for reffing duties (not from Club we hasten to add, with Neil Jewsbury and Johnny Lam in particular spending time on the whistle). This meant that only a couple of games could be played after the group round, with just team 1 and team 4 getting to play a single game - both of which they won leaving us to speculate on what might have been.

Never mind, the tournament was intended as a friendly, and preparation for two further JFL tournaments at Tung Chung for medals and silverware - of which P3 look forward to getting more than our fair share. A great experience and a promising start for our guys.

Team 1: Coaches: Ian O’Donoghue, Peter Kwok
Players: Gareth Fung, Oliver Manders, James O’Donoghue, Sam Riedal, Nicholas Stevenson, JJ Tullis
Results: 2 wins, a draw, then a cruel 0-1 loss in the dying seconds. One more win followed in the next round.

Team 2: Coaches: Neil Jewsbury, Johnny Lam
Players: Alex Bater, Michael Brewster, Liam Bromhead, Oliver Jewsbury, Ian Lam, Wilf Murphy
Results: Opened with a win but then struggled against some well practiced opposition. One won, lost three.

Team 3: Coaches: Lachlan Campbell, Ross Fothergill
Players: Lucius Campbell, Nicholas Fothergill, Arun Jaswal, Stirling Keogh, Casey Law
Results: Playing without the benefit of a sub and showing real stamina, the five battled to 2 wins, a draw and a loss.

Team 4: Coaches: Piu Lam, Mike Nikkel, Jason Smith
Players: Joni James, Matthew Lam, Destin Nikkel, Alex Smith, Darren and Sean Szeto

Results: A win, two losses and a draw in the group, but a further win in the last round game saw them walk away on a high and with an even record.

HK Community League Div 1 match vs Top Skills and Ole, 29 Sept, at Stanley Ho Sports Ground

P3’s first experience of the newly formed Community League saw a scratch team travel to Pok Fu Lam to play Division 1 sides from Ole Soccer and Top Skills in a round robin format. It was clear that these two sides had not wasted their summer training camp time and were able to put Club under constant pressure with goals inevitably resulting. Club did make some chances on the counter but were able to convert and lost both matches.

HKFC 1. Coach: Piu Lam
Players: Garret Lee, Keith Au-Yeung, Ethan Chan, Duncan Phillips, Alvin Lam, Conor Sum, Chung Hok-yiu

George Tullis, P3 Head Coach, HKFC Junior Soccer