

Clayesmore 2 International College 3

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| 1. Igor | 11. Ben |
| 2. Mikhail | 12. Tugan |
| 3. Kyle | 13. Sergey |
| 4. Dmitry | 14. Mikhail |
| 5. Jonathan | 15. Matiya |
| 6. Yang | 16. Feng Xu |
| 7. Danylo | 17. David |
| 8. Jason | 18. Stanislav |
| 9. Andrey | 19. Pro |
| 10. Sunnatjon | |

The IC team only had the chance for a theory session re the previous match on how to improve for the next game before they quickly found them on the coach for a Saturday afternoon game away against Clayesmore!

The match started in similar fashion to the last one, a nervy start saw the opposition quickly dominating possession and territory and a quick break saw the goal fly past a diving Igor and into the goal. This was followed very soon after the restart by another lightning quick attack that resulted in Clayesmore extending their lead. The IC had barely drawn breath and they were already two goals down. Although it was early in the match, substitutions were made and Matiya and Sergey came on to bulk up the midfield.

Matiya slotted well into the centre of the park winning balls and laying off passes to captain Sunnatjon who was now able to play more freely further up the pitch. A combination of luck and skill saw a decisive IC attack end in a goal and very quickly the team's spirits had been raised again. Clayesmore's confidence and comfort in possession meant that they pushed forward to extend their lead. This was quashed by some excellent defending by Kyle and Dimitry and some tireless running from Mikhail, Jason and Danylo.

As Clayesmore pushed up the field, the IC found more space and time on the ball and another good phase of passing saw Ben strike the ball into the back of the net to level the scores just before half time.

Spirits were high at the break but energy levels were depleted and the depth of the squad was essential as Feng Xu, David and Tugan came on for the beginning of the second half. The IC came under some pressure to begin with but were able to withstand it with solid tackling and composure on the ball. After having one goal ruled out for offside at one end and watching Igor make a fantastic save in a one on one situation at the other, there was a buzz about the team as if they could sense that victory was a genuine possibility.

A scramble in front of the Clayesmore goalmouth resulted in Sunnatjon being in control of the ball but facing the wrong way! A clever piece of play saw him back heel the ball towards the goal and as the ball seemed to trickle across the line in slow motion, the team turned towards each other and celebrated taking the lead.

The IC continued to attack and had another goal ruled out for offside before withstanding another bout of pressure to see out the match and chalk up their first victory of the season.

It was undoubtedly down to determination and hard work that the IC had turned this one round. They had deserved their win against what had ultimately been more skilful opponents by playing simple football. The team go into match two of this four match series brimming with confidence after already bettering two of last year's team's performances.

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