

International College 5 The Park School 4

ICS U16 football went into this latest match still chasing their first win. Recent matches have seen some improvement in the play but putting away chances has remained a huge problem.

It started off badly against The Park School as the midfielders failed to deal with a long ball which bounced kindly for the opposition centre striker. The striker was quick enough to go through and score past Gaspard in goal. The IC boys responded by launching attacks from the left flank where Tommaso was giving his marker a torrid time. Twice Tommaso went past him only to drive his shot inches over the cross bar. Pressure mounted on The Park School and after some good exchanges in the penalty area, Basim turned away from his marker and hit a hard shot across goal into the bottom right corner for the equaliser.

There were good opportunities for both teams to take the lead, but poor shooting and some good goalkeeping kept it a 1-1. IC captain Aibek was adjudged to have tagged an opponent's shirt in the penalty box and Park School converted the resultant penalty kick. Tommaso pick up a Bernhard through pass and beat the goalkeeper to level the score just before the half time whistle.

The second half saw another sea-saw battle with the IC team just ahead on chances created but again the conversion rate was not great. Then came a fruitful period for IC when The Park failed to clear from a cross leaving Ahmed with chance to score from three metres out.

ICS increased the lead further when Bernhard lurched onto to a high ball and calmly side-footed past a diving goalkeeper to make it 4: 2

A short period of indecisiveness allowed The Park School back in the game. First IC gave away another penalty and then a direct free kick sailed over Gaspard's head into the back of the net to level the scores at 4-4.

An onslaught on the Park's goal brought out some dogged defensive work and it looked like a draw was on the cards until Tommaso struck. Some good passes ended up with Tommaso running down the left wing before cutting in at goal and releasing a thunderbolt of a shot past the keeper for the winner.

IC hung on for the remaining few minutes for their first win of the season by a 5-4 score line.