

League

West Side 1 (0) Carlway 0 (0)

Duncan Maclean (90)

Venue Barvas

Ref - Billy Macdonald

05.07.2010

Gordon Craigie

D IMaclennan Domhnall MacKay Calum Tom Moody Andy "VP" Macleod
Kevin "Gochan" Macleod Donnie Macphail Murdo "Squeg" Macleod Ed Ansell Gordon
"Tago" MacDonald

Archie MacDonald

Subs Used: Dan Crossley (Archie MacDonald) (60) Benn Esslemont (Ed Ansell) (82) Kevin Anderson (Andy"VP" Macleod)(90+2)

Carlway slumped to their first league defeat of the season in this West Side derby which means that they have now been overtaken in the league by their near neighbours, although they still have a game in hand. Carlway were again without Kenny Maclelland (due to his work commitments) and team captain Andrew Maciver was also unavailable. Kevin Anderson dropped to the bench with DI Maclelland and Kevin "Gochan" Macleod reinstated to the starting line up.

West Side were themselves missing some key personnel notably both of their first choice keepers Gordon Kennedy and Daniel Maclelland but any fears they may have had as regards how the young substitute keeper would cope were unfounded as Carlway failed to seriously test him throughout the ninety minutes.

The first half was a non event, a really dour and scrappy affair (reminiscent of last week's Brazil vs Portugal World Cup fixture) with little football being played by either side, possibly due to the congestion in midfield. None of the midfield players was being allowed time on the ball to pick out a team mate or when they did make a pass, more often than not it went directly to the opposition. Despite Carlway having the wind at their backs and most of the possession they failed to test the young West Side keeper until five minutes before half time.

The first shot on goal came in the tenth minute when Donnie Smith had a shot from distance but it was saved in spectacular fashion by a diving Craigie although there was no real danger. Ten minutes later Gordon Tago picked the ball up on the left wing drove into the centre of the opposition eighteen yard box and when he was 20 yards out he hit a right foot shot which, although on target, was blocked by a West Side defender.

The next incident of note occurred in the thirtieth minute when Duncan Maclean broke free on the left, sent in a cross and Scott Graham's glancing header went just past the post. Two minutes later Carlway fashioned a chance of their own when Kevin Gochan picking up the ball on the half way line out on the left touch line sent a cross field pass to DI Maclelland who

crossed the ball into the box, but MacPhail somehow managed to head it narrowly past the post.

In the fortieth minute Gordon Tago was sent free on the left, he carried the ball to the corner of the 18 yard box unleashed a shot across the face of the West Side goal and although the keeper failed to hold the ball he reacted quickly to smother the ball from the onrushing Archie MacDonald.

The pattern of play in the initial quarter of the second half continued in the same vein as the first half, but to be fair to both teams as the game wore on there was an improvement. Dan Crossley's introduction to the action on the sixtieth minute not only had an immediate impact but it also coincided with Carloway's best spell of the match. Almost immediately on entering the fray Crossley broke free from the West Side defence, who were caught square 10 yards from the half way line, ran with the ball to just outside the eighteen box, but somehow hit his shot directly against the keeper. The ball rebounded off the keeper, hit the onrushing Crossley and looped just over the bar.

Within a minute DI sent a ball up the right wing, Crossley controlled the ball played an inch perfect pass to Kevin Gochan who shot lamely, with his left foot, direct at the keeper. Gochan then found himself unmarked on the edge of the eighteen yard box but he hurried his shot and it went wide of the post.

DJ Clinton was then sent off on the sixty fifth minute for swearing at the linesman whilst disputing a decision. West Side were aggrieved by the decision and this seemed to act as a cue for a flurry of mistimed tackles and meaty challenges, from both teams, and it appeared that the game was going to develop into another fractious and ill-tempered encounter as is becoming the norm in encounters between the two teams. In fairness to referee, Macdonald, he tried to keep the game flowing but it is difficult to comprehend how more players were not booked during the following fifteen minute period.

On the seventy seventh minute Carloway had probably their best opportunity of the match, Domhnall Mackay picked out Gochan, who drove into the box but his right foot shot hit the post and despite Gordon Tago having the goal at his mercy, the pace of the rebound deceived him and he was unable to take advantage. In the eightieth minute Calum Tom, whilst attempting to clear his lines, misjudged a header, the ball bounced off the top of his head and landed at the feet of Scott Graham who, despite only having Craigie to beat, managed to put the ball wide of the left hand post.

Carloway continued to press but despite their numerical advantage, they were running out of ideas and made little impact on a resolute West Side defence. In the dying minutes a ball was thumped up the park by a West Side defender, Andy "VP" attempted to control it with his chest but it ran away from him. He made a desperate lunge to retrieve the ball but his late tackle resulted in a free kick to West Side at the corner of the 18 yard box. From the resultant free kick, Duncan Maclean curled the ball into the top right hand corner of the net with his deadly left peg, giving Craigie no chance.

The resultant celebrations once again epitomised what it means for “the West” to get one over Carloway and until such time as Carloway realise that they need to not only physically compete when they face West Side but also realise that a totally different mental approach is required for this fixture, compared to all their other fixtures, they are going to have great difficulty in overcoming West Side either at home or in Barvas.

All in all, it was a disappointing performance from Carloway but credit has to go to West Side who despite their weakened side battled away manfully, never gave up, and despite being down to ten men for the last 30 minutes of the game managed against the odds to secure the three points.

If choosing a Carloway man of the match was problematic in the Point game selecting someone from this game was even more difficult. The player who caught my eye in this game was young Gordon Campbell who although not a regular gave a very assured performance and will I am sure put the West Side manager, Grant Hunter, in a quandary when making his next team selection.

However, for Carloway, although Dan Crossley’s performance was not without merit as he only played for the last half hour I am reluctant to choose him, and as such, I have therefore plumped for Kevin “Gochan” for the effort and commitment shown over the piece and the fact that despite his profligacy in front of goal, he at least managed to manoeuvre himself into some half decent goal scoring positions.