



Weekly Round Up Round 13, 2024 and Round 6 Catch-up



***“If you want to have success in the future,
you have to be ready to work now.”***

– Jurgen Klopp



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U12/4 vs Quakers Hill Tigers SC

Kings Langley SFC 0 - Quakers Hill Tigers SC 2

The first game of our last weekend of the season got off to a very unusual, but fun, start. During the warm up, Tigers had a portable speaker blasting some very danceable music, and it didn't take long for most of our team to start dancing along (pretty sure it's something they've done before at school). There was no way I was interrupting that - it's one of the most fun moments the team have had.

As the game eventually got underway, we had a great contest in front of us. Kings had a great passing game on display, playing through the back line, up to the midfield. Liam and Lincoln had a great combo going on the right hand side, with Liam often playing the ball back to Lincoln only to send the ball up for Liam to make a run. We had some great runs, only to be cut off, or not necessarily have the cross option open. On the defensive, we stepped up massively, helped by having John back for the first time since the end of June. Brayden, Amay, Xander and Lincoln held the line impressively, making Tigers work incredibly hard for a chance on goal. Unfortunately, despite holding out for over 20 minutes, Tigers managed to break through and take the lead just before half time.

Hoping to make a comeback early, we pushed up after kick off, only to be sent back minutes later to concede another goal, putting even further behind. A few unexpected substitutions due to injuries and a keeper change on our side had players a bit out of position, but we picked up well and continued to take the fight to them. At the end of the day, our younger team was slightly eclipsed against the older, bigger and faster Tigers. We didn't come away with the win here, but we played hard, and that's what I expect from this team.

Player of the match this week goes to Obie, not necessarily for what he did on the field, but rather off the field. Before the game, neither Brayden or Lincoln wanted to keep, and despite my plan to have Lincoln start in, which he was a little upset about, Obie asked if he could take

Lincoln's place. Well done to Obie for stepping up and doing so with a smile on his face!!

Player of the Match: Obie

Encouragement Award: Too many to count

Round 6 Catch-up

U12/4 vs Parklea SFC

Kings Langley SFC 2 - Parklea SFC 2

Going into the final game of the season against an almost undefeated team, with no chance of dropping further down than our current 7th spot, we had absolutely nothing to lose. We kicked off the warm up with some music, learning from yesterday (next year, the kids can pick the playlist) and pretty much agreed the only thing we need to take away from today is to have fun.

Once the game got underway, it was clear the changed attitude had a massive impact. We made it incredibly hard for Parklea to break through, but managed to counter wide and counter fast. A few heavy through balls made it to their keeper before we could run onto it, but that didn't stop us from trying a few different approaches, coming from both sides and the middle. We had some great shots on goal in the first half, but most of them going straight to the keeper.

In defence, there were no complaints from our solid back line, as everyone stepped up and denied attempt after attempt. A few getting through to our keeper, but nothing he wasn't prepared to pick up or clear out. We had a few close calls, with Brayden coming out early to challenge, and as the ball ran away on its own towards the goal, it was swiftly cleaned up and sent out to the side. With 2 minutes to go before the half, Annabelle made a run down the right line, beating their players and putting in a cross into the box. Obie helped it along to Lincoln who made sure the ball was sent into the back of the net.

Half time, 1-0 up against our local rivals, the ice blocks came out to cool everyone down after running all half. A few friendly reminders as to where to close the gaps, keep an eye on their wide players, and we were good to go with even more enthusiasm than at kick off.

Shortly after commencing the second half, Parklea managed to make it through with a long ball and had us for speed. Despite a great chase, it came down to 1 on 1 with Brayden who met the challenge and went in perfectly. Unfortunately, he didn't quite secure the ball, and Parklea were able to bring the score level again. The next 10 minutes we were heavily on the defensive, but holding our own even better than we did in the first half. I tried keeping track of all the saves Brayden made, but wasn't able to keep up. Even Parklea's coach gave Brayden a well done after one amazing save that would have otherwise put us behind.

10 minutes into the second half, Jaxon L had the ball out to the left of their goal, had a bit of time and space to have a shot across to the right side of the goal. After beating everyone, Lincoln made sure it went in at the last moment. There are lots of opinions as to whether it was a steal, or securing the goal, but nevertheless, we were in front yet again. Our second lead of the game didn't last long, with Parklea replying two minutes later and bringing the game level once more.

Yet again, Brayden and the defensive line bore the brunt of more attacks as Parklea pushed hard to get ahead. No matter how hard they tried, we kept rejecting them and making our own advances.

The last 10 minutes of the game belonged to Kings Langley. We felt an opportunity to get ahead again, and the kids wanted it badly. Parklea's own attacks fizzled as our midfield won it early. Our backs were pressing up into space, ready to win the ball early and put it back in the fight before the opposition could do anything with it. We had so many attempts, frustratingly blocked at the last minute with excellent defense. We won a few corners from some shots on goal that were parried away and were taking full advantage of them. As it came down to the last minute, a run down the left wing from Liam saw him facing a defender who should have had him, but somehow was beaten. A quick

cross in the box, a shot, but saved for another corner right on 50 minutes ended the game at a 2-2 draw.

I've probably said this a few times in previous match reports this season, but with no more games left, I can safely say that THIS was our game of the season. It wasn't a win, but against Parklea, and where they are on the ladder, it was a massive outcome.

With that point from the draw, and a fortunate result in another game, our slightly higher goal difference was just enough to push us up into 6th on the ladder at the final standings.

Brayden was our obvious player of the match today. All the goals he saved made the difference today. If it wasn't for his amazing efforts, we would almost certainly have lost that game. As someone who's played as a keeper for a number of years, I can say there are hard games when you want to quit, then there are games like this where you put everything out there, get a great outcome and feel amazing.

I'll save some content for the end of year report, but this was an awesome game to watch and a great way to end the season. Well done everyone!!

Player of the Match: Brayden

Encouragement Award: Aaron & Annabelle & Xander

U12/6 vs Parklea SFC White

Kings Langley SFC 2 - Parklea SFC White 1

This was the kind of game that makes competition so exciting. A win would guarantee the team fourth place and a spot in the finals series. A draw or a loss would mean that finals football would be at the mercy of results from other games.

Kings started the game full of fire, and moved the ball forward very well with a high work rate. This effort was rewarded with an early goal, setting the scene for what would hopefully be a decisive victory. While it was hoped the early goal would have a galvanising effect, it unfortunately seemed to have the opposite effect. Where before the team was running in attack and defence, the early goal appeared to introduce a high level of complacency. Players that ran forward in attack were slowly walking back in defence, and those who were working in the backline were not making good choices when it came to dealing with advancing opposition players, and had a habit of rushing their plays instead of controlling the ball and looking for options. Kings were caught short time and time again as Parklea was allowed the space and time to move many players through the midfield into the attacking third. It was through luck more than design that Kings went into the break 1-0 up.

After a half-time speech from the coach that was a reminder there are no easy games in this division and that effort is required at all times to reach our goals, Kings were once again amped up and ready to play. Royal blue shirts wrestled back possession of the ball from sky blue shirts, and the game started to swing back towards Kings once more. The renewed effort and urgency from the team was suitably rewarded with another goal in the second half. Unfortunately, complacency set in again. Marking on throw-ins and free kicks was no longer as tight as it needed to be, and players were starting to jump into tackles rather than take a half-step back and try to delay and deflect the efforts of Parklea's attack. The laxity in marking advancing players lead to a late Parklea goal, and a nervy final few moments as Parklea continued to attack with dedication and purpose.

Ultimately at the final whistle, Kings prevailed. It was a measure of the drain and effort of the final few minutes that the team was too exhausted to celebrate their advancement through to the finals series.

Qualifying for the semi-finals is a just reward for how much this team has grown and improved throughout this season. Every player should be proud of what they have achieved this year and should take great

satisfaction that they have finished fourth in a competition that had no easy games. Well done everyone!

Player of the Match: Jill

Encouragement Award: Monty

U13/3 vs Quakers Hill Tigers SC

Kings Langley SFC 3 - Quakers Hill Tigers SC 2

Playing top of the table was always going to be hard, but minus players from injuries & illness, we had 10 players turn up for today's task ...

And TURN UP THEY DID winning the game 3-2!!! What an amazing result. It shows when you all play as one unit and dig deep for every challenge and every touch as a team that you can achieve great things.

Super effort in goals from Liam throwing himself on many ground balls under challenges from Tigers players and his fast distribution has proven key as the season has progressed.

Kaden was everywhere he could be today putting in great challenges. Brian once again won almost every sprint race he could to shut down their attacks and some big clearing kicks and Superb corners. Muhammad & Tommy never stopped challenging the ball, as did Ryan, Owen and Joshua contesting many plays and putting themselves in good positions.

CK put in an amazing amount of runs forward with great footwork leaving players in his wake. Brody went on the cook today scoring all 3 goals with 1 scored with his weak foot.

Well done team, this late in the season your results have shaken up the top of the ladder with some massive upsets!!! Playing 3 of the top 4 teams.

W-D-D-W-W on the run home with 1 more to play.

Player of the Match: Liam

Encouragement Award: Kaden

Round 6 Catch-up

U13/3 vs Parklea SFC

Kings Langley SFC 1 - Parklea SFC 1

The final game of the season didn't disappoint with the good old local derby between Kings Langley and Parklea.

You wouldn't have thought both teams were out of the running for the finals as they both turned up and put on a cracking performance for all to see!!! Finishing with a 1-1 draw which was fitting as both teams deserved to win today.

Tommy was everywhere on the field today from back post to corners and chasing every player he could!

CK also put in one of his best performances of the year exhausting himself with hard work pushing forward taking some stinging shots at goal!

Brian was rock solid in the backline sending everything to the moon and beyond but his ability to take corners this late in the season really gave us an extra edge in attack.

Kaden once again showing great leadership skills barking orders and asking more from his fellow teammates who responded instantly.

Lucas was a bit slow to find his groove but a short rest and he was back on field and clicked into top gear in the 2nd half chasing down some fast strikers and clearing nicely.

Muhammad has dominated the left hand side of the field all season and today was nothing different, turning in & out & in before passing.

Owen found himself in the thick of action plenty of times today, which shows he is naturally progressing with knowing where he needs to be as the game progressed, challenging opposing players with more ferocity.

Ryan might seem quiet but definitely lets his skills do the talking in the field. A silent assassin who never gave up on every challenge today!

Brody carved up the left mid/forward position and he and Muhammad have really dominated the field in recent weeks, a great combination.

Joshua had some great touches today and his positional support play off the ball has increased all season but today he could be seen zooming up field ready for a cross or 2.

Liam had another outstanding performance in goals today. He showed no fear jumping on any shot or throwing himself at anything today and once again the speed of his returns allowed our attack to move quickly whilst the opposition was still retreating.

Thanks Ollie for coming and supporting the team whilst injured. You have once again shown great sportsmanship and offered great advice to the players on the bench. Thank you to Jaxon & Lincoln from Under 12/4's for once again helping out. We couldn't have got the result without you guys.

Thank you to Sampson for helping the boys this year at training and games with stretching, injuries and being a great helping hand to the coaches.

Thank you to all the Parents/Guardians and friends and family of players who came and supported the team this year.

We really appreciate your support and efforts of getting the players to training and games all year! It's been a great season watching the team grow and become a better playing unit and watch them all improve individually also. It's been a pleasure to have a great bunch of kids turn up and try hard all year.

Player of the Match: Tommy

Encouragement Award: CK

U15/4 vs Lourdes FC

Kings Langley SFC 1 - Lourdes FC 2

Not provided

Round 6 Catch-up

U15/4 vs Lourdes FC

Kings Langley SFC 2 - Lourdes FC 1

Not provided

O35/4 vs Quakers Hill Junior SC

Kings Langley SFC 3 - Quakers Hill Junior SC 4

With our season written off weeks ago, we went into this game against one of the locked in confirmed finalists with the intention of enjoying every last minute of our final game of the season. Just because it had been a nightmare of a season didn't mean we couldn't end with a bang. While there was only enough players for one sub on the bench, spirits were high.

We started the game off with some positive and forward-focused football, and it didn't take long before David spanked Goliath and we

went 1-0 up. We continued to pour on the pressure, but unfortunately were caught on the counter and Quakers Hill were able to equalise. Undeterred, we kept pushing forward. Quakers were caught napping, and we were up again. The arm wrestle continued, and once again Quakers were able to find an equaliser. With both sides still pressing hard, it was Quakers Hill that were able to strike before half-time, going into the break 3-2 up.

Although Kings were feeling the effects of a season filled with injuries, everyone was determined to still have a solid crack at it. The fast pace of the first half settled somewhat as both sides tried to consolidate their defences while testing their opponents for weaknesses. Quakers Hill had the better of possession, but by no means had it all their own way. Kings scrambled well in defence, and on multiple occasions forced Quakers Hill to do their own scrambling. Mid-way through the second half, pressure from Quakers Hill saw the ball in the back of the net once again. This was a signal for the bus to be parked, and Quakers did everything they could to shut down the game. Kings kept trying to move the ball forward, and with only a few minutes to go smartly moved the ball from the backline through to the midfield and again into forward space for a classy late goal. The final few minutes were frantic as Quakers found themselves constantly on the back foot. Every last ounce of effort was thrown at the Quakers goal, but unfortunately we ran out of time to rescue a point and hopefully drag the team off the bottom of the ladder.

It was however a classy end to a tough season, and this game was the personification of Kings culture: never give up, no matter the odds. And above all, have fun doing it.