

Date: 27.07.11 Time: 18:00

TEAM: FCL - Forest City London ( USL PDL )

Opponent: Chicago Fire PDL - Location: Toyota Park, Chicago

Conditions: Sunny and 86 Degrees getting a little cooler as the Sun went down.

<p><b>Lineup: (attach and/or complete on the back)</b></p> <p>00 : Bolaji Oloruntoba GK                  2 : Todd Rutledge RB                  3 : Gary Ogilvie LB                  15 : Jovan Ivanovich CB – Subbed at HT                  28 : Chris Dillon CB                  7 : Ryan Walter RM                  8 : Tyler Hemming CM – Subbed at 85 mins                  16 : ?? : CM                  11 : Harris Cekic : LM                  6 : Thomas Owens CF – Subbed at 65 mins                  9 : Carl Haworth</p> <p><b>Subs :</b></p> <p>5 : Shawn Kodejs CB – Came on at HT                  14 : Alexander Rouse CF – Came on at 65 Mins                  ?? : CM - Came on at 85 Mins</p>	<p><b>Free Kicks/Corners:</b></p> <p>3 Attacking Corners in total</p> <p>1 x to the back Post that went out of play.                  1 x Penalty Spot but cleared by Central Defender                  1 x Driven to the edge of the Box where attacker miskicks &amp; opposition break.</p> <p>Defensive Corners were Man for Man marking with the RB on the front Post no matter what side of the Pitch the corner was taken from but he tended to drift off without the Ball being actually cleared. No one on back Post ever.</p>
<p><b>System/Formation:</b></p> <p>Started with a solid &amp; disciplined looking 4-4-2 system &amp; were in the Game up until HT albeit a Goal down. Half Time saw the withdrawal of their most dominant CB ( 15 Jovanovich ) for another Central Defender which appeared to upset the balance defensively. As the Game progressed the 4-4-2 turned into a 3-5-1-1 with one Forward Player being substituted for a Midfielder &amp; the other Striker ( 9 Howarth ) dropping back into a more “ support Striker “ role if not an “attacking Midfielder “ role and the Right Back ( 2 Rutledge ) playing as a Central Striker with support from Midfield when possible, in attempt to get some kind of Ball possession which never happened.</p>	<p><b>Stand Out Players:</b></p> <p>Without lots of Ball possession as a Team, the standout Players were acknowledged by their work rate &amp; ability to create their own chances. The only 2 Shots on Goal for FCL all Game were created by 9 Haworth, a nippy Forward who makes up for his lack of height ( 5’9 ) in how he is able to create a chance for himself out of virtually nothing &amp; his surprising strength against obviously physically stronger opponents. Haworth scored 11 Goals in 14 Games for FCL this Summer Season and his persistence &amp; constant running kept the Defence on their toes all afternoon even later in the Game when he was used as a Support/Link Man &amp; making deeper runs as opposed to playing on the shoulder of the last Defender in the first half.. Decent close control &amp; dribbling too.</p>
<p><b>Tendencies:</b></p>	<p><b>Goalkeeping (strength/weakness)</b></p>

<p><b>Defensive:</b> They started the Game reasonably comfortable with 2 solid Center Backs who were good in the air and were dealing with the direct Game of Chicago reasonably enough for the first 20 or so mins until they got caught too high up the Pitch eventually conceding a Penalty that was missed, then the same thing happened 5 mins later this time with a Goal conceded. The Substitution of Jovanovich at HT was the first of 3 Defensive changes in the Second Half in which they were generally cut open at will. Neither Full Back seemed to be quick enough to deal with Chicago's more fit &amp; quicker wide Players. The final 15 mins saw them switch to 3 Defenders as the Right Back ( 2 Rutledge ) was played in a Center Forward position.</p>	<p>00 “ Toba “ had a decent Game considering the lack of help he had for around the last 70 mins of the Game. He was comfortable &amp; vocal in claiming crosses &amp; corners. His kicking certainly could be worked on, on his more dominant right foot as well as his left which he desperately tried to avoid using. Second Goal seemed to move a lot &amp; Toba couldn't hold on to it with the Ball going through the GK's hands. His positioning for the Third Goal could have been better maybe but his Defence were 20 Yards upfield so he had to come out in an attempt to close down the Strikers angle.</p>
<p><b>Offensive:</b></p> <p>They started the Game playing with 2 Centralised Forwards &amp; a link up Man from Midfield supporting them. A range of misplaced passes meant they could not get an attacking Game going &amp; their only 2 shots in the 90 mins were from the impressive Haworth's dribble &amp; shot along with another dribble forcing a great block from one of the Central Defenders, Haworth was the only real threat to the Chicago Goal from FCL. As the Game slipped away from them in the Second half they sacrificed both Strikers with 6 Owens being substituted for 14 Rous, a Striker who played in a Midfield position in a formation change ( see formation column ) &amp; Haworth dropping deeper to in attempt for the Team to see more of the Ball, which didn't happen.</p>	<p><b>Describe goals scored in this match:</b></p> <p>25 mins : MISSED PEN CHI : Immediate Long Ball from Chicago over the top of the FCL Defence after winning possession caught out FCL with 28 Dillon bundling over Chicago Striker in the Box, 28 Dillon was lucky to escape with just a Yellow Card. Penalty hits post &amp; is cleared.</p> <p>28 Mins : 1-0 CHI Long Ball releasing Chicago Striker over the top of left Back &amp; left sided Central Defender, Striker slots home from GK's left hand side across Goal, inside the Box.</p> <p>52 Mins : 2-0 CHI Slow Chicago Midfield build up results in Long Range effort from Calam Mallace which seemed to move a lot &amp; go through the GK.</p> <p>75 Mins : 3-0 CHI Long Ball over the top sends Striker through on Goal who lobs it over the oncoming GK into an empty net from just inside the Box.</p>

*Describe in a detailed written response on a separate sheet of paper a response to ONE of the following questions for the team you scouted.*

What are the deficiencies of the team you watched and how would you prepare your team to take advantage of them for the next match? Describe at least two specific weaknesses and outline two drills or practice activities you would utilize to take advantage of those weaknesses.

---

Two specific weaknesses of the FCL Team were 1 their motivation, attitude & character which literally seemed to disappear when going a Goal down. They never seemed likely to get back into the Match even at 1-0 down at HT even though they were still in it, it was as if they didn't want to particularly get back into the Game either & within 7 mins of the restart the Game was effectively over.

Number 2 would be their lack of composure on the Ball & how uncomfortable they looked, Second Half especially, when they had what little possession they had throughout the Game. The Ball was generally seen as a Hot Potatoe & FCL were regularly rushed into conceding possession when in control of the Ball, in all areas of the Pitch which I also felt as the Game went on, was down to a lack of fitness compared to the clearly fitter Chicago Fire Players.

To take advantage of weakness 1 i would advise a Team to start with a High Tempo & attempt to get ahead in the Game and even increase the lead as early as possible which, if yesterday is anything to go by, would deflate FCL. Quick attacking Players would be able to get success out of a not so quick backline of 4 which had 3 changes in the Second Half & a final total of 4 different Central Defenders.

To take advantage of weakness number 2 I would encourage a high pressure Game in order to push FCL into making mistakes, including pressure on the GK when given a back pass & move the Midfield & Defence up the Field as a Unit as the Ball wouldn't likely be going too far and that would be an ideal opportunity to win possession of the Ball in those moments. A regular turnover of possession in key areas where FCL are less than comfortable on the Ball but seem to still play there anyway, an attacking style that would look to encourage penetrating direct Balls down the Channels to quick forwards with supporting Midfielders, would bring success. With the big Gap between the FCL Midfield and their Defenders on many occasions in this particular Game, I feel that using an extra Attacking Player against them to put them under the most pressure as well as other areas of attacking support, would be beneficial.

I later found out that FCL had a Game on Sunday evening in Ottawa which combined then with the trip by Bus to Chicago was a total of over 1,300 Miles travelling on a Bus in 48 hours, I'm convinced this must have had an effect on the Team both physically & mentally especially when you consider the Temps in this part of the Country & from where they travelled from, were in the Mid 80's to low 90's...