

Date: 18.08.11 Time: 20:00 CST

TEAM: DC United

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

Conditions: High 70's/Low 80's, clear skies.

<p>Lineup: (attach and/or complete on the back)</p> <p>28 : Bill Hamid – GK (1 Steve Cronin 46 mins – GK)</p> <p>23 : Perry Kitchen - RB</p> <p>2 : Brandon McDonald - CB</p> <p>5 : Dejan Jakovic - CB</p> <p>21 : Daniel Woolard - LB</p> <p>14 : Andy Najar - RM</p> <p>19 : Clyde Simms DM</p> <p>20 : Stephen King (25 : Santino Quaranta 71 mins – CM/AM) – CM/AM</p> <p>13 : Chris Pontius - LM</p> <p>7 : Dwayne De Rosario - ST</p> <p>9 : Charlie Davies - ST (16 Josh Wolff 60 mins – ST).</p> 	<p>Free Kicks/Corners:</p> <p>1 Attacking Corner, which was absolutely wasted after a short corner was taken which eventually ended back at the Goalkeeper within 6 Passes.</p> <p>3 Attacking Free Kicks which were no danger to the oppositions Defence at all, 1 was easily cleared after a non purposeful chip into the Box by 14 Najar from the Right Hand side with the second taken short by 7 De Rosario from 35 Yards in a Central position only to be chipped into the Box with the Defence holding their line on the edge of the Box allowing the Ball to be easily gathered by their GK. DC, on both occasions, left their tallest & best headerer of the Ball (5 Jakovic) on the half way line each time which was baffling to me. The final Free Kick was a tame one by De Rosario that was floated into the area & easily cleared by the Defence with only 3 DC Players in the Box to challenge 7 Defenders.</p> <p>5 Defending Corners, which were all easily dealt with by their Centre Backs (5 Jakovic especially). They have a Player on the front Post only when defending Corners with 19 Simms taking the Role with Left Footed Inswinging Corners & 14 Najar doing it from the other side. 5 Jakovic on each occasion stood right next to the GK & attacked the Ball each time winning the Ball with relative ease..</p>
<p>System/Formation:</p> <p>Played throughout with a 4-1-3-2 & only</p>	<p>Stand Out Players:</p> <p>5 Jakovic (Center Back) impressed me with</p>

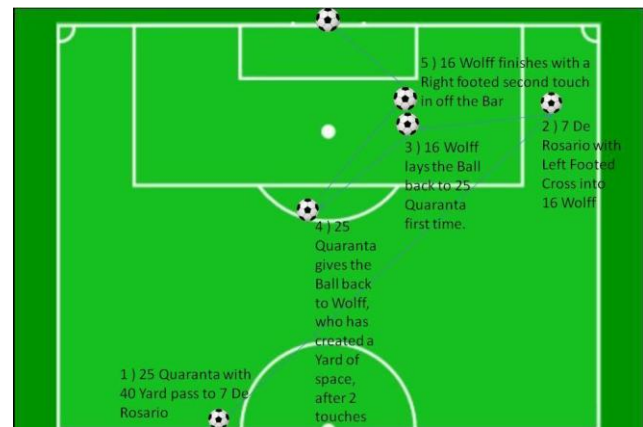
<p>changed personnel in the Second Half which did give them more urgency & become more creative. They played with a Flat Back 4 with the holding Midfielder (19 Simms) giving a very disciplined performance protecting his back line, winning the Ball & distributing quickly to wider Players. The Attacking Players were not Interchanging at all except for 5 Minutes at the start of the First Half when 14 Najjar Right Side & 13 Pontius Left Side switched Wings for 10 minutes. This change didn't have any effect & they went back to what appeared to be both of their natural sides. The Front 2 took turns in coming deep to receive the Ball & were regulary looking to run & receive Balls in the Channels between the Centre Back & Full Back.</p>	<p>his headering ability, reading of the Game, surprising speed against quick Chicago Forwards & his ability & willingness to bring the ball out of Defence at times & distribute it well. As mentioned I was baffled at their choice of not moving him forward for Set Pieces & I don't believe it was any coincidence that DC's Set Pieces were fruitless & non threatening. He did get turned too easily by Nayarko for the Chicago opening Goal.</p> <p>19 Simms the Holding Midfielder also impressed me with his discipline in playing the role, his reading of the Game too was impressive as he regulary slipped into any of the Defensive positions when one of the Defenders were caught out of position & stopped danger throughout the Game by breaking up Chicago attacks.</p> <p>Both Substitutes also made an impact & made DC a better Team culminating in the equaliser in which the Substitute 25 Quaranta set up the other Substitute 16 Wolff for the equalizer in the 73rd minute.</p>
<p>Tendencies:</p> <p>Defensive: A Flat Back 4 with a holding Midfielder who rarely if any time strayed away from his duties. The 2 Centre Half's were 2 of DC's better Players on display & were pretty comfortable with Chicago's 2 front Players for most of the Game. The 2 Centre Backs went virtually Man for Man on the 2 Chicago Strikers who were pushed further & further wide as the Game wore on. The Full Backs, 23 Kitchen especially, were more than willing to join in with the Attack where & when possible. It did seem as if Chicago targeted the DC Left Back (2 Brandon Macdonald) as they attacked 6 times down that side of the Pitch with some success but were let down with the Final Ball, in the first 15 mins alone.</p>	<p>Goalkeeping (strength/weakness)</p> <p>28 Bill Hamid started the Game & made 2 good saves in the first half before pulling a Hamstring right on the HT Whistle. He seemed uncomfortable with the Ball at his feet however, wasn't very vocal nor decisive where crosses were concerned.</p> <p>His replacement 1 Cronin seemed much more comfortable & commanding. He didn't have a great deal to do in all fairness against the worst side in the MLS Eastern Conference but did seem more assured than Hamid in the First Half with the Defenders also seemingly more willing to actually use him as an outlet for them when pressurized.</p>
<p>Offensive:</p> <p>Very limited with the Goal being DC's only shot on target for the whole Game. 9 Davies was a willing runner but had little impact on the Game, the only thing 7 De Rosario, the Captain,</p>	<p>Describe goals scored in this match:</p> <p>1-0 Chicago 59 Mins – Good work from Nyarako on the Left Hand Side managing to get free from 5 Jakovic, delivering a Right Footed cross that was headered by</p>

done consistently all Game was shake his head at the Balls he was receiving, his Team Mates, the Referee & his own control. 20 King who was the Central Player just behind the front 2 had a quiet Game & also failed to make an impact, being withdrawn for the much more effective 25 Quaranta, after 71 mins. Both of the wide Midfield Players didn't have bad Games but created very little. I was under the impression that they were instructed more to contain the opposition rather than take risks in certain situations that they maybe would in a Home Game for example. Both I feel " had the reigns on " & the Game could have had a different outcome if they were allowed a little more of a free reign as both showed that they were capable of beating their respective Full Backs. They both provided very good width & were a good outlet for receiving the Ball.

the DC Left Back 21 Woolard into the path of the Chicago Attacking Midfielder 10 Grazzini who volleyed Home from 12 Yards at the back Post.



1-1 DC United 73 Mins - Excellent 7 Pass move ending with an excellent finish form the Substitute 16 Wolff firing home Right Footed from 12 Yards high & off the Bar.



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 DC United were 1 their lack of creativity in the final third, they had one shot on Goal the whole Game which admittedly they scored with but they were extremely average in an attacking sense without a great deal of urgency too.

Number 2 would be the distance they left between their holding Midfielder & the 5 more attacking Players. They were regulary outnumbered in that area & against a better Team, would have had much more problems.

To take advantage of weakness 1 i would attempt to push their wide Players back as far as possible by pushing on my Full Backs & encourage them to get forward as much as possible. In doing that DC won't be getting any decent service into a front Pairing that are not especially quick & don't appear to be able to create for themselves either. Although when Wolff came on they were more creative, Wolff seemed overweight & is now 34 Years of age but is still dangerous & has shown throughout his MLS Career that he can score Goals when given chances..I would expect decent Center Halves to deal with their front Pairing though & cutting off their supply as much as possible would all but suffocate DC's attacking threat based on tonight's performance.

To take advantage of weakness number 2 I would be tempted to add an additional Central Midfielder. I feel an extra Midfielder, given DC's shape, would really help get control of the Midfield area & ultimately, the Game. There was far too much space at critical times of the Game such as when either Team lost possession of the Ball, between the holding Midfielder & the Players in front of him. That did seem to change with the 71st Minute substitution of Quaranta for King but by that time DC were already losing to a Team that they shouldn't be. The changes made did manage to get DC a Point however, but against a better Team with an extra Midfielder, the control of the Midfield should mean that by the 71st minute in another Game, the Game would already be out of sight for DC.

To summarize, I was disappointed with DC after their 4-0 thrashing of Vancouver at the weekend. I was expecting them to create more & be more adventurous but sadly it wasn't to be. They were decent defensively but, like Philadelphia in my last MLS Report, they could have won this Game against the bottom side in the MLS Eastern Conference if they went for it more. Too much restraint on their wide Players & a pretty predictable front pairing that has the majorly over rated De Rosario in it. Maybe they go back to the Capital please with a Point, but it undoubtedly could & should have been all three.