

Rain

Got up today ...took a look outside and figured "oh shitit's cold and wet.. I'm already cold just lookin' outside. Get up ...read the times just to see what new BS the administration is up to and then check the board to see who we're playin' and "oh my " ...it's the WV/NK or whatever their name is now. Got a new name but it's the same old gas and I figure, better not be late

show up at game time and not a lot of subs....I'm thinking
HMMMMMMMMMMMMM...could be trouble.

Game time and I'm ready.....everybody looks ready ...while not a lot of subs...the mix looks good... the bomber, Glenn, Mark, Jeff, Anatole, Roberto, Tim, Rock, Jim Pat hMMMMMM maybe we could do some damage. But it don't help when I hear, "If they have us by 5 in the first half we are quitting and going for a beer." I figure well...we're underrated

Mick shows up to play goalI'm a little surprised...so what.

Game starts and wouldn't ya know itwe look good. Everybody has a "we want this one!" attitude. The passes are good, they get where they're supposed to be. The Nicks spread the field....the defense is looking tough. It's not easy to get by the bomber and today was no exception. Anatole was fast in the middle and had enough legs to stop the break. Robert was strong and not letting anything by. Anatole has us playing an offside trap and it was working.

They kept bringing it and we kept stopping it. First, they tried the middle and it wasn't working. They got jammed up and couldn't get the ball through. You could see they were getting frustrated...but not worried. The offside trap was working and they didn't have an answer.

Offensively we were holding our own. The midfield was great and constantly intercepted their short passes which ruined their momentum in the middle. Rock kept picking off small passes and reversing the flow. Pat was always in position and disrupted their sideline advance. Jeff would always come up behind them and steal the ball or kick it away to one of us and again they lost their flow. Tim was creating trouble in the middle. He started in the back but was very effective when he moved to midfield. Disrupting and bothering them.

Halfway through the half they came up the middle andwe made a slip up on the field,.. One mistake and they had a clear shot and it was 1-0 NK/WV. I was a little down but actually I didn't feel we were out of it because they'd gotten lucky and they knew it. While I could

tell they expected to win, ...they weren't expecting to score on our mistake..,but instead their play. And that didn't happen.

The half continued and again the D made no mistakes. they tried the left side but didn't have enough to get through. Same on the right. They brought it up the middle but couldn't get through. Anatole's defense was stymeing(sp) them. We brought the D up so far they didn't have enough speed to catch their own through ball. And Mick was playing great in the goal. He was ready for the through ball and picked them off every time they sent it.

The offense was doing well but they had a good defense too! We tried to get through but in that first half they had us a bit on our heelshowever the offside trap shortened the field. With them jamed up a little, the midfield kept stealing their ball... and Jeff and Glenn and Mark were catching their D up to far... and before they knew it we were at their end challenging and they had to do some serious running to catch up and stay up. At the end of the half it was still 1-0 and they were looking tired.

On the other hand we looked good. Nobody was tired and there was a creeping feeling that " we might have these guys"
As we joined hands for the halftime cheer I couldn't even understand what anyone saidwhich told me right away "we're still in this"

Mick kept being right in the right place.

Sure enough they began the half trying to bring it up the sides as the middle wasn't working and then after a couple of attemptsbam they got caught flatfooted and to far up. Al stopped them on the left, Robert in the middle, Anatole on the fast break.

A pass got intercepted and we were attacking at their end. Ball passed the end line and its a corner kick. Glenn takes the kick and in comes the ball. What happens next is sort of indescribable. The ball goes in the net. How... I saw it but I'm not sure what I saw ... Wild stuff but its 1-1 and it's a whole new game.

Halftime

We look good they look tired. They to run a lot with the offside traps and they looked worn.

2nd Half...Nicks look good. Breaking up every play, disrupting their flow. Rock keeps taking it away on short passes on the side. Jeff keeps coming up from behind and stealing it. Then he moves sideway instead of straight at the goal and there a little "Who's going to chase this guy" going on. And he was being a handful to chase. Rich

keeps getting the ball up front and they keep knocking him down. 5 Times!! he gets the call three time and so he batting .600. Pat keeps challenging on the 50/50's and winning. It actually seemed that we were winning most all the 50/50 balls because we were out hustling them. Al keeps taking away the ball on their passes between players.

Mick kept being in just the right place to stop their scoring. No matter where they shot,..if it was on goal..strangely, he was right there. I kept thinking ...HMMMMMMMM. He's right there.

They are frustrated now and then 3/4 through and a fast break down the side started by Pat? down the wing ..sent in front of the goal after some nice ball handling and it's in front of the goal and.....can't say what happened..right left over and in. whoa...Whao..we are leading the game....!

The rest is history and more of the same . They just couldn't get through. Midfield played awesome ...both ends of the field so that the D always had an answer and the O always had an assist. Mark was all over the front and with Glen and Jeff Rock Pat Tim Mark,,,bothering the heck out off their offensive sets.

1 goal scored only by this team? the defense had a day!

At the end the ref couldn't even save them as he dragged out the final whistle as long as he could before there was going to be an investigation.

Then it was over,

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Roy "Big Sleep" Thompson

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