



DEVILS' FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR SEASON 2010

This weekend is the penultimate weekend before the Brisbane Premier League competition commences on 20 February and Redlands United have taken the opportunity to hold an in-house training camp this Saturday culminating with a trial game against fellow Premier League side Mt Gravatt. The game will be played at the Club's home ground at the Cleveland Showgrounds at 6pm with the Reserves playing at 4pm.

Last weekend the Devils took on Gold Coast Premier League side Burleigh Heads at the showground and prevailed 5-2 winners in an entertaining, up-tempo encounter. It was the visitors who made the brighter opening and were ahead on the scoreboard after only 33 seconds when Steve Homer unluckily turned a dangerous cross into his own net. It was a lackadaisical opening for the home side with the visitors playing over the home side. It took seven minutes for the Devils to get into the action when Russell Woodruffe played a good ball into the Burleigh box for the keeper to save at the feet of Lyons. The play was continuing at a fine pace and even though the home side was turning over possession at an alarming rate, they were still well in the game. On the 27th minute mark, Danny Byrne produced a run from deep in his own half and delivered a fine cross to Lyons who controlled the ball well and volleyed just wide of the goal.

Although not playing with their usual confidence and fluency the Devils continued to press forward and on the half hour Cameron Draper crossed the ball for Graham Fyfe to rise in the mid of the Burleigh defenders and head just over the crossbar under intense pressure. Burleigh reacted to this attack immediately, but shot just wide of the goal, after some fine team build up. This sparked a good 10 minute period for the visitors with Devils' keeper Mitch O'Brien forced to make a number of fine saves. Fyfe, Lyons and Byrne continued to lead the way for the Devils continuing to create opportunities for the home side but all to no avail, with the score line at half time remaining Redlands 0 Burleigh heads 1.

The Devils came out for the second half with a totally different mindset and inside the opening seven minutes of the second half Byrne, Lyons and Fyfe all forced strong saves from the Burleigh keeper. Despite the fine turn around of form, the Devils couldn't take Burleigh lightly, and on the 52 minute mark, the visitors doubled their lead when their striker ran across the box and despite pressure from the Devils defense, was able to drive into the bottom corner of the net giving O'Brien no chance. Despite being 2 goals down, Redlands continued to play the brand of football they have become known for. Soon after, Lyons opened the home side's scoring when a Jesse Lindemann tackle allowed Lyons to pick up the loose ball, cross for Lindemann who played it back to Lyons to rifle home the Devils first goal.

On 62 minutes the Devils squared the game up on the scoreboard, when Lindemann beat his defender and crossed a fine ball to Byrne to slot it home past the desperate keeper. The second half was becoming all Redlands way. The home side played some fine free flowing football to see Fyfe beat his defender, play a neat 1-2 with Byrne for Fyfe to cross to Lyons to tap in with the keeper beaten. Jack Lyons extended the Devils lead just a few moments later with a 35metre drive that rocketed into the back of the net giving the Burleigh keeper no chance. Redlands continued to press forward and a quickly taken free kick from Fyfe, allowed Byrne to go wide and cross, where Lindemann's run met the ball perfectly to give the keeper no chance. When the referee blew the final whistle, the score-line read Redlands United 5, Burleigh Heads 2.

After the game Redlands Coach Peter Bannon commented, "The game was certainly one of two halves. The first half was not a convincing display for us. We were way too loose and gave away possession much too easily and were our own worst enemy. We worked on some things at the break and changed a few players around and the second half was much better. We can't afford these kinds of starts when the season commences. I am looking forward to having everyone on the training paddock as we still have a couple of players unable to shake some niggling injuries. This was a good hit out for both sides and there was some good football played from both sides at times. Our fitness levels look to be good at this stage which is important with the season start only for weeks away".

Redlands Premier Youth and Reserve sides also played Burleigh heads with mixed results. The Youth had a workmanlike performance with a 6-1 win, whilst the Reserves went down by the odd goal in a 1-2 loss to the visitors. With the season start just over a week away, Saturday's game against Premier League rivals, Mt Gravatt, will be a must see game for all Devils fans.



Graham Fyfe mesmerizes the Burleigh Heads defense.

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