

DEVILS' PRE-SEASON CONTINUES

This weekend Redlands United travel away to Palm Beach on Saturday evening to continue their pre-season schedule with the Youth side commencing proceedings at 2:00pm followed by the Reserves at 4:00pm and the Premier League side at 6:00pm.

The Devils took on fellow Premier League side Taringa Rovers at the Cleveland Show Grounds last Saturday night in their third pre-season trial game and prevailed 3-1 winners in an entertaining, up-tempo encounter. Redlands had seven of their seventeen man squad unavailable for the game and Taringa also had a few late withdrawals, but it did not take away from a very enjoyable spectacle for the viewing public.

It was the visitors who made the brighter opening and were unlucky when they hit the cross bar in the opening five minutes. At the other end of the park Ryan Bridge saw his goal bound header deflect off a Taringa defender to safety. The visitors continued their impressive opening and were rewarded for their efforts in the 11th minute when a corner was cleared to one of their midfield players who took a touch before picking out the top corner from 25 yards, giving stand in keeper Jon Burrows no chance.

The home side then found some fluency in their play and began to hold lengthy spells of possession with Russell Woodruffe having an effort cleared off the line and Danny Byrne (who only got back from the UK on Wednesday night) hitting the cross bar. Redlands leveled thing up in the 38th minute when Danny Murphy went past two Taringa defenders before pulling the ball back for Woodruffe to slot home. Taringa responded positively and a quick counter saw them unfortunate to hit the woodwork yet again. Redlands took advantage of the let off and just three minutes later took the lead. Some wonderful play down the right flank saw the ball moved quickly across the park to the left where Danny Murphy again became the provider, delivering a pin point cross to Steven Homer to power in a header from close range. Just a minute later Murphy should have got on the score sheet himself, but pushed the ball wide when put through one on one.

Inside the opening five minutes of the second half Danny Byrne forced an excellent save from the Taringa keeper and had a goal disallowed for offside, before Redlands Keeper Jon Burrows tipped a goal bound shot around his post. A couple of minutes later Burrows produced a magnificent reflex save to tip the ball over his bar from a close range header before the Taringa keeper also saved well coming off his line to thwart Danny Murphy. In the 70th minute a series of Redlands corners saw another Woodruffe effort deflected over the bar and Redlands third goal taken when Steven Homer put away his second after his shot came back off the underside of the Taringa cross bar and over the line. Taringa appeared to run out of legs in the final fifteen minutes which saw the home side enjoying plenty of possession, but three fine saves from the Taringa keeper during that period saw the score finish Redlands United 3 Taringa Rovers 1.

After the game Redlands Assistant Coach Dave Thorogood commented, "Under the circumstances (with numerous players unavailable) it was a good hit out for both sides and there was some good football played from both sides as well. With the shortened pre-season we really need to be getting those missing back on board sooner rather than later to try to look at our best possible combinations. 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 both went down by the odd goal in their earlier hit outs, 1-0 and 2-1 respectively, also against side from Taringa Rovers.

Danny Murphy on the ball for Redlands
Photo courtesy of www.offsidephotos.com.au

