Whilst the weather has impacted on the start to Noosa Lions FC season, on Saturday night, it was the turn of the Coolum defence to frustrate and break up the fluidity of Noosa’s attacking football. In front of a large home crowd, Coolum were determined to put on a good show and despite Noosa’s bright start, it was Coolum who took the lead in the 14th minute with their first real attack. A cross from the right side met with delight at the back post by the Coolum’s left-winger. It was a classic ‘against the run of play’ goal, with Noosa’s forward combinations already creating several chances. Ollie Blackmore’s long-range shot being well saved and Max Adey firing over the bar.

As both midfields gave each other no quarter, Noosa looked to their wide players to create more openings, with Adey’s pace and dribbling causing Coolum problems. Whilst Noosa were playing well, Coolum’s determination to press and harry, led to passes going astray in the final third and neither side controlling the game. Coolum had a great chance to make it 2-0 in the 35th minute, but the first half finished with Noosa dominating. Oli Williams and Ollie Blackmore combined with a one-two passing move, but Blackmore shot over the bar. Adey drew another save from the Coolum ‘keeper and Jack Williams chipped over the crossbar from 25 yards. The pressure was telling and Noosa got their reward in the 44th minute, Mitch Bridge scrambling home the equaliser at the back post from a corner.

Coolum had the first shot in the second half, but after Adey was again denied at the near post, Jack Williams leaped highest to head a goal in off the crossbar from a corner. Noosa stepped up a gear and Coolum began to struggle against the constant pressure and Noosa’s slick passing. Adey got his reward for a fine performance with Noosa’s third goal from a Sunny Law cross.

Noosa Coaches, Michael Williams and Matt Digwood, ensured there would be no let up for Coolum, bringing on Matt Thompson and Taichi Takaishi for Law and Blackmore. Thompson showed no signs of rustiness on his return for the Lions, as he slotted home Noosa’s fourth after more good work by Adey on the left. Thompson was unlucky to hit the post a few minutes later after another sweeping Noosa attack. A couple stoppages in play, including a pantomime drama when a Coolum forward was sin binned, did not disrupt Noosa’s focus with Jack Williams striking a crisp right footed shot home for his second and Noosa’s fifth goal.

This was a polished second half performance by Noosa as they created numerous chances and stands them in good stead for the upcoming Kappa Cup game against East Brisbane on Wednesday night and the Grand Final re-match against Caloundra on 26 April. Go Lions!