Noosa Dominate in Catch-Up Clash Against Kawana at the Lions Den

It was a cold and blustery evening at the Lions Den as Noosa took on Kawana
in a high-stakes Round 3 catch-up fixture. With both clubs jostling for
position near the top of the QPL3 Sunshine Coast ladder—Noosa sitting fourth
and Kawana just behind in fifth—the match promised intensity, and it
certainly delivered.

Fresh off a spirited 2–2 draw with top-of-the-table Caloundra, Noosa entered
the contest full of confidence. That result made them the only side this
season to take points off the ladder leaders, thanks in part to a double
from in-form midfielder Ollie Blackmore.

Despite a strong southeasterly wind sweeping the pitch from end to end and
intermittent rain making for tricky conditions, a sizable crowd turned out
to watch both the Premier Men and Women kick off simultaneously.

Return of the Boldys

A welcome sight for Noosa fans was the return of goalkeeper Cameron Boldy,
donning the gloves for the first time this year following surgery on a
broken finger sustained during training. His cousin, Sam Boldy, made his
second appearance for the Lions after an impressive debut last week, and
again proved to be one of the standout players on the park.

Early Drama and End-to-End Action

Noosa started sharply, adopting a slick, penetrative passing game that
quickly unsettled the Kawana defence. The breakthrough came early after
Kawana’s number 8 was shown a straight red card for a reckless slide tackle
on the ever-elusive Max Addey, whose footwork continues to dazzle week in
and week out.

Noosa capitalised on the numerical advantage almost immediately, with a
pinpoint free kick from Nick Cookman finding Blackmore for the opening goal.

Addey doubled the lead soon after, displaying his trademark flair to finish
neatly following a superb pass from midfield.

Kawana pulled one back in the 25th minute from the penalty spot after some
careless defending saw a jersey tug punished. Despite diving the right way,
Boldy was beaten by the pace of the shot.

Sam Boldy had a golden opportunity to restore the two-goal buffer after
intercepting a throw-in and going one-on-one with the Kawana keeper, who
stood tall to make the save.

Tensions flared late in the half when Cookman and Stewart clashed in the
mud, earning both a yellow card. The sides went into the break with Noosa
holding a 2–1 advantage.

Noosa Take Control

Coach Williams/Digwood urged his side to maintain their shape and revert to
disciplined two-touch football, and the message appeared to hit home. Noosa
came out firing, with Cookman’s early second-half free kick cleared off the
line and another long-range effort from Boldy forcing a reflex save.

Sustained pressure paid off in the 60th minute when a clever checked run
from Sam Boldy saw him nod home a perfect cross to make it 3–1.

Williams/Digwood then rang in the changes, bringing on Matt Thompson,
Nathan, and Harry for Cookman, Will, and Sunny Law. The fresh legs made an
instant impact, with Thompson slotting home to stretch the lead to 4–1 with
18 minutes left.

Cameron Boldy capped off a strong 80-minute performance before being
substituted, while Thompson grabbed his second goal in the 89th minute to
seal an emphatic 5–1 win.

Noosa’s defence, led by the commanding Mitch Bridge, kept Kawana’s attacking
threats largely at bay. Jeremy Stewart, one of Kawana’s most dangerous
players, was nullified by a dominant midfield display from the Lions.

U23s Share the Points in Frustrating Draw

In the earlier U23s clash, Noosa and Kawana played out a 2–2 draw in a match
riddled with missed chances and offside calls. Noosa’s Harry [surname
unconfirmed] was fouled just outside the box in the 70th minute and left the
field nursing an extended elbow.

Kawana equalised in the 80th minute with a deflected free kick, and despite
late pressure, a goal-line clearance in the 88th minute denied Noosa a
last-gasp winner.

While the U23s will rue their missed opportunities, the senior side’s
commanding performance was a statement win that consolidates their place in
the top four and keeps pressure on the competition’s leaders.