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.