Lions Roar on the Road: Noosa Defeat Swans in Spirited Clash at Maroochydore

MAROOCHYDORE — Saturday, May 17, 2025

In a fiery showdown at Maroochydore, Noosa Lions FC showed their grit and growing momentum with a 3-1 win over a determined Swans outfit, led by familiar faces in ex-Lions Cory Lovewell (coach) and striker Corey Dodson. While the pair will always hold a place in Noosa hearts, there was no room for sentiment on the pitch in this high-stakes affair.

The Lions burst out of the gates with intensity, nearly opening the scoring in the 5th minute when Max Adey struck the crossbar. Adey, a constant headache for defenders in recent weeks, was again targeted physically, as opposition teams struggle to contain his silky footwork and attacking flair.

Maroochydore’s keeper, Josh Morewood, was the standout for the home side in the opening 20 minutes, pulling off three exceptional saves to deny Noosa’s early efforts.

The match ebbed and flowed through the first half, but it was a clumsy challenge from Phil Cheetham on 35 minutes that handed Noosa a breakthrough. Midfielder Nick Cookman stepped up and slotted home the penalty with composure, capping off a strong first-half display linking well with Oliver Blackmore and Adey.

Noosa entered the break with a deserved 1-0 lead, drawing praise from the head coach, who urged his side to maintain possession and continue to exploit gaps in the Swans’ backline.

Second Half Drama

A light-hearted moment opened the second half, as the linesman delayed the restart—having forgotten his flag—prompting good-natured jeers from the crowd.

The Swans came out reinvigorated, and within minutes, Sunny Law capitalised on a lapse in Maroochydore’s rhythm to extend the lead to 2. Morewood was again immense, producing a stunning double save in the 53rd minute to keep Noosa from increasing the lead.

Noosa’s own shot-stopper, Cam Boldy, matched the heroics with a crucial save midway through the half. However, the Swans found the net on a rapid counter-attack in the 73rd minute, briefly swinging momentum their way.

Maroochydore’s hopes were dashed shortly after when they were reduced to ten men following a second yellow card for a reckless challenge just outside the area. Despite three successive free kicks, the Lions couldn’t test Morewood’s net from the set piece opportunities.

The final blow came in the 85th minute, when sharp passing play ended with Adey sliding a perfectly weighted ball across goal for Blackmore to tap in and seal the result. Noosa’s 3-1 win was a testament to their composure, teamwork, and attacking depth.

U23s: Fiji Returns with a Brace in Dominant WinEarlier in the day, Noosa’s U23 squad put on a clinic against Maroochydore, cruising to a 7-2 victory. The Lions were superior in every aspect—positional play, movement, and execution. Fiji marked his return in style with two goals, while Kai Graham stunned the crowd with a thunderbolt from 35 yards, sealing what many hailed as the goal of the match.

With performances like these, the future looks bright for the Lions at all levels