**Snakes Bite Back**

Match Report – Woombye v Noosa Lions 28 June - Alasdair Scott

Two goals for Myles Dresher gave the Noosa Lions Under-23s a deserved 2-1 win over Woombye in a hard-fought game. Noosa extended their lead at the top of the table against fourth-placed Woombye but were made to work for the three points.

Following last week’s 2-1 win over the same opponents, Noosa FQPL Mens team coaches, Michael Williams and Matt Digwood, were aware this was going to be a tough fixture at the Snake Pit. With the squad stretched by injuries, absences and playing their fifth game in 18 days, getting off to a good start was important. Woombye, however, struck first and were 1-0 up after only four minutes. Noosa looked tired and were grateful to their ‘keeper, Cameron Boldy, making two great saves in the 11th and 12th minute, first palming a strong header away from the bottom corner and then blocking a shot at the near post.

Noosa were certainly on the back foot and should have been 2-0 down in the 25th minute after a fast Woombye break down their right-hand side. Another great double save by Boldy keeping the score at 1-0. By the 30th minute, Noosa had begun to settle, keeping possession with a number of passes across the back line and midfield. Although they were holding possession, they weren't threatening the Woombye defence.

Interchanging positions, switching wingers, and a high press from Oli Williams, Ollie Blackmore and Max Adey were all being tried by Noosa, but Woombye’s determined defence were coping with the Lions’ intermittent threats. On the stroke of half-time, Woombye had a free kick which wasn't cleared and Cameron Boldy, at full stretch, just tipped the goal-bound shot over the bar.

At the half-time break, Digwood and Williams made changes replacing Ben Moffat who'd been playing in the No. 6 role with the attacking threat of super-sub, Sunny Law onto the right wing, pushing Sam Boldy up front and Oli Williams just dropping in a bit deeper. The changes didn't have the desired effect though, because in the 51st minute, Woombye went 2-0 up. Defensive errors and a failure to clear the ball were punished by Woombye. A couple of minutes later and it was 3-0 following more Woombye pressure, a shot came back off the post and the Snakes’ centre half reacted quickest to slot home.

To their credit, Noosa reacted positively and when Jarvis Bennell’s crossfield pass found Sunny Law in space on the right-hand side, he went past his defender and crossed for Oli Williams to tuck the ball away at the near post. 3-1 and it was clearly game on for Noosa. The team showing great character in coming back and starting to dominate possession and really threaten - something they hadn't done at all in the first half. Max Adey was brought down in the box and before the referee had a chance to decide whether it was a penalty or not, Oli Williams had shot home from outside the area. 3-2 and now it was all Noosa pressure. In the 69th minute, Williams held off his defender and set up Law, but his shot was easily saved.

Woombye showed they were still hungry for more goals and a swift counterattack, though offside, was a warning for the resurgent Noosa to be wary. Some great work from Takaishi in the midfield, sent Law wide and he found Sam Boldy whose cross flashed across the front of the Woombye goal. In the 75th minute, Noosa made another change, Dresher coming on for Sam Boldy and he had an immediate chance to try and level the scores and again a few minutes later, heading straight at the keeper from a Noosa corner. Law, ably supported by his right back, Lachie Kusabs, was finding more space down the right-hand side later and created an opportunity for Takaishi, who blasted over.

A strong defensive performance by Woombye held out various desperate Noosa attempts. With the clock ticking down, even Cameron Boldy was playing passes from the halfway line, but Woombye held on for a deserved victory. Despite the loss, Noosa can take solace from the comeback and the character they showed in making a game of it from 3-0 down, Next Saturday, the Noosa teams are away at Beerwah, kicking off at 4pm and 6pm respectively.