

Redlands Look Towards Rochedale Encounter

This weekend sees the Redlands Red Devils travel to Rochedale to take on the Brisbane Premier League 2010 Premiers, Rochedale Rovers. After finding form last week against the Gold Coast's 2010 Champions, Broadbeach, the Red Devils will be looking to show consistency against the Brisbane Premiers. The games will be played at Underwood Park, Rochedale at 7pm Saturday 5 February, with the Reserves playing at 4.45pm and the Premier Youth at 2.45pm. Head over to Rochedale for an evening of entertaining football.

Last Saturday evening the Red Devils Men's Premier League side played host to the Gold Coast Premier League Grand Final Winners, Broadbeach as part of their pre-season preparations. In direct contrast to last week's game against Capalaba the Red Devils came out firing. After only 3 minutes Rhys Meredith was pulled down outside the Broadbeach penalty area. Juso Julardzija stepped up and hit a beautiful ball over the wall but unfortunately just wide of the post. The Red Devils opened the scoring in the 12th minute when new signing Michael Lee pinched the ball from the Broadbeach defense and slipped the ball through to Rhys Meredith to slot home the sides opening goal. In an incident best described as bizarre, Redlands had defender James Smith sent off for a questionable "last man tackle" decision. Fortunately for Redlands, the visitors were unable to convert the free kick. Minutes later Redlands responded in the best possible way to being reduced to ten men. A superb free flowing passage of football resulting in Julardzija beating the defense, and putting in a near perfect cross to the near post for Meredith to leap above the defense and head the ball on to Graham Fyfe who volleyed home the goal for a 2 nil lead. In the 31st minute Julardzija got onto the score sheet himself when he stepped inside the Broadbeach defenders and unleashed a curling shot into the top corner of the goal giving the keeper no chance. Despite being 3 nil down Broadbeach refused to give up and the game was being played at a good pace with flowing end to end football. Broadbeach pulled a goal back just before half time with a superb volley finish to a flowing piece of attack. The half ended 3 – 1 to the Red Devils and although Redlands were the dominant side, Broadbeach were providing some entertaining football with former Redlands junior Lincoln Greaves one of the standouts for the visitors.

The second half started where the first ended, with Redlands dominating the play. The Redlands defense was hardly tested by the visitors in the 2nd half as they easily handled the Broadbeach attacking forays. The Red Devils were creating numerous opportunities but a combination of some fine saves from the Broadbeach keeper, some scrambling defense, final touches that didn't come off and hitting the post, kept the scoreline at 3 – 1. 20 minutes into the 2nd half, the Red Devils unleashed an outstanding period of attacking football culminating when Lee gathered the ball in midfield, played the ball on to Julardzija who held up the defense and flicked the ball into the gap for Lee to continue his run into space, rounding the keeper and slotting the ball into the net for the Devils 4th and final goal for the afternoon. Much to their credit Broadbeach kept coming back at the Red Devils and Redlands Keeper Matt Tubbs had to defuse a couple of chances.

After the game Redlands Coach Peter Bannon commented "It was a good hit out for the lads after a heavy week of training, they have backed up very well. Both sides put in some good performances. I think we have started to gel together as a squad and the future is looking good at this stage".

The Redlands Squad for the game was: 1 Tubbs, 2 Bridge, 3 (Caedon) Newell, 4 Smith, 7 Julardzija, 8 Phillips, 9 Lee, 10 Lindemann, 11 Fyfe, 12 Parish, 13 (Tyson) Newell, 14 Hancock, 15 Meredith, 16 Saroya

In the earlier game the Redlands United Premier Reserves earned a hard fought 3 nil victory over Broadbeach on the back of two superb goals from Tyson Newell.

