

7th July 2023

SPORTS NEWS

Boys Football Report

On Thursday 6th July the Eversley boys football team played Oakthorpe in the semi finals of the Fursman Cup.

This was going to be an extremely difficult game against opposition who they had faced before, which ended in a hard fought 0-0 draw.

The game had a very cagey opening with both sides trying to gain the upper hand. Oakthorpe had lots of possession with Eversley sitting in and counter attacking when opportunities arose. This tactic worked mid-way through the first half when some brilliant link up play between Sebastian and Antonio, before Sebastian's shot was parried by the Oakthorpe goalkeeper, into the path of Calum who tapped in from close range to give Eversley a 1-0 lead.

Oakthorpe responded well and their pressure on the Eversley goal intensified. An outstanding save from Andrew kept the boys ahead at half time when he tipped a powerful strike just past the post.



Enjoyment, Perseverance, Self-Belief



The second half followed a similar pattern to the first with Eversley trying to preserve their lead and Oakthorpe pushing for an equaliser. Not long after the break they were level when an excellent strike flew past Andrew and into the bottom corner to make it 1-1.

The game was destined for extra time with both teams understanding the magnitude of the occasion and not trying to make any mistake that would gift the opposition a winning goal.

Extra time began with neither side creating any meaningful openings and both pretty much accepting the dreaded penalty shootout. In the last minute of extra time Oakthorpe were awarded a free kick on the edge of the box. This would've been the cruelest way to lose for the boys but fortunately the free kick rebounded back off the bar and the final whistle blew.

The penalty shootout followed with both teams taking 3 penalties each.

Oakthorpe went first and Andrew pulled off a sensational save to give Eversley the advantage

Sebastian stepped up and rifled his penalty into the bottom corner to put Eversley 1-0 up

Oakthorpe scored their second penalty to make it 1-1

Calum step up and smashed his penalty into the top corner to make it 2-1 to Eversley

Oakthorpe knew they had to score but their next penalty came back out off the post and Eversley were through!!!

It was one of the most incredible games from start to finish but yet again these boys showed why they are one of the best teams in Enfield. They have secured the league title and will now play Forty Hill in the Fursman Cup Final next week with the opportunity to make it one of the best seasons from any Eversley team ever.

The character and resilience this team has shown time and time again is incredible. Well done boys!!! I'm so proud of you.

(Niall Halloran)

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