

Lions open season with a hard--fought draw

Inferno picks up a point in Heartland Division debut



St Louis – Saturday’s season opener between the St Louis Lions and the Chicago Inferno ended in a 0---0 stalemate at the Tony Glavin Soccer Park. Despite holding a 13---7 advantage in shots, and creating the better of the scoring chances throughout the 90 minutes, the home side was unable to capitalize and take all three points. Lions head coach Tony Glavin thought his team deserved the win for their all round play and the chances they created, especially in the second half.

“Even in the first half, we were very dangerous,” Glavin said. “We created chance after chance but our finishing hurt us in the end.”

The Lions came out fired up from the first whistle and straight from the kick off Vadim Cojocov took advantage of some hesitant defending from the visitors to flash a shot just wide within the opening seconds of the game. As the first half wore on, the game settled in to a typical Heartland Division contest with a physical battle in the midfield and some moments of exciting attacking play. The best chance of the first half fell to Lions striker Jan Chvojan as he collected a through ball from Jonny Brown but fired just wide of the post.

The beginning of the second half saw the Inferno take control of the game and for the next twenty minutes they looked like the more likely team to score. However, the home team weathered this storm and came back into the game by creating some very good scoring chances throughout the remaining time. Jai Maw, Jake Cawsey and substitute Carson Pryor all went close but were denied by some excellent goal keeping by Chicago’s Brett Petricek. Forward Jordan Roberts was driving the Lions on and he was denied by a terrific diving save with ten minutes remaining. As tired bodies remained on the field, the action turned sour as a very poor tackle on Roberts by Inferno midfielder DJ Schillinger resulted in a straight red card for the Chicago man. The Lions Jake Cawsey picked up his second yellow, and subsequent red, for his involvement in the melee that followed.

Glavin wasn’t surprised by the quality that Chicago possessed and he believes they will do well in the league this year but he expects his team to take advantage of their scoring chances in future games.

“Overall we’ve got a good bit of ability in the team,” Glavin said. “Hopefully we can make it even better for the next game but we can’t be too unhappy with a point as they are a good side.”

For the first time since the 2009 season, the Lions started by picking up at least a point which should give the team a good platform to build from. Glavin thinks that his team has started the season off well considering the squad has only been together for a week.

“Seven of our starting eleven players were all new players and I thought we clicked as a team in so many areas,” Glavin said. “Not only is that a credit to the four players from last year but a credit to the new players for fitting in right away.”

Looking forward: The Lions continue their home stand with two games next weekend. First up is WSA Winnipeg, Saturday afternoon at 5pm followed by long time rival Des Moines Menace on Sunday at 5pm. Both games will be played at the Tony Glavin Soccer Park.

Tickets: Can be purchased at www.stllions.com. Season tickets can now be purchased for a reduced price of \$40 both online and through our office at 636---939---5151! All youth soccer players who wear their team jersey will receive free entry to a 2014 St Louis Lions home game!

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