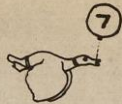


SPORTS



FOOTBALL



The Stirling team.

STIRLING UNIVERSITY	0
PARTICK THISTLE	5

MATCH PLAYED WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER 1974

Partick Thistle provided this year's opposition in the football club's annual challenge game which in recent years has seen teams from Dundee, Hibs and Celtic, in action on the University playing fields. The visitors' presence was first felt in the tenth minute when McCue brilliantly pushed over the bar a good header from McDowell; from the corner which resulted Thistle's Hansen just headed wide. The play was taking the pattern of consistent Thistle attacks while the University side defending well but having to use midfield men in defensive roles thus leaving their own attack virtually unsupported. After some more fine saves by McCue from McDowell and then Gray, a promising Stirling attack ended with Scottish under-23 cap, Alan Rough having to move quickly after a deflection by Brogan. Thistle opened scoring in the 25th minute when Hansen collected a cross from the left, and with the Stirling defence claiming offside, easily beat McCue. Ten minutes later after a weakly headed clearance, Thistle striker Gray was presented with a simple chance and made no mistake. Jappy worked hard in midfield for the students and frequently relieved the pressure on the Stirling side by taking the ball at the Thistle defence. In one such move a good break by Little resulted in Jappy heading just wide. Half time: 0 - 2

The second half opened with Rough making a double save from Little and then Cran. Partick replied with a Glavin shot which McCue did well to turn round for a corner. A short pass back by Astley let Joe Craig in to score Thistle's third goal. This goal was the signal for a Thistle onslaught and in the next two minutes substitute Matassa and centre forward Rae added to the score. Partick seemed content with this burst and coasted the rest of the game. Final score: Stirling 0, Partick Thistle 5.

Verdict: considering Thistle fielded a team of full-timers which contained ten men with first team experience, Stirling did well enough. The team still lacks striking power and this yet again remains the main problem. Best for Partick were McDowell, Galvin and Craig while Astley and Ayre were top men in the Stirling team.

Partick Thistle: Rough, Rooney, Kellachan, Kennedy, Chalmers, Gray, Rae, Craig, McDowell. Subs. McCarthy and Matassa.

Stirling University: McCue (Butchard), Astley, Jamieson, Meek (Laurie), Sommerville, Ayre, Walker, Jappy, Little, Brogan, Cran (Moore).



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