

La Gazzetta dello Portland

Tutto il rosa  della vita

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PORTLAND DENIED BY GREAT GOALKEEPING:

Buchanan—Portland

Another tournament opened with a derby match for Portland High as they faced Buchanan for the first match of four in the Schools' Tournament at Ravenscraig. The wet weather outside hadn't dampened any spirits inside as the current Portland team had the best of the pressure in the first quarter of this match.

Portland seemed to be winning the midfield tussle, where captain Tollan frequently managed to keep possession, threading through balls to Stewart who looked promising up front.

Buchanan seemed either content or desperate in taking several long shots that went high or trickled wide. The occasional move to make play in front of the Portland goal was met with good defending by the hard-working Buglass.

Buchanan seemed to



grow more confident and a great shot on target was met with an equally confident stop by Sproul to deny Buchanan the opener.

Buchanan's long balls forward became more accurate and captain Tollan was aided and abetted by Smith and George as they made several clearances and tackles.

It looked like Portland were about to open the scoring when Tollan found Stewart in a scoring position. It was only the bravery of the Buchanan keeper that stopped the talented youngster from finding the back of the net with the best shot of the game so far.

Portland looked strong. Tollan ran the midfield

SQUAD

Sproul (GK)
Simpson
George
Morgan
Buglass
Stewart
Smith
Tollan (Capt.)

ragged, with Buglass and George good in defence alongside Smith, putting in some well-timed challenges.

Then the match took a real change when Buchanan found space in the midfield and a short bursting run led to yet another long range effort—this time it paid off. The ball flew into the corner of the net, just beyond Sproul's outstretched hand.



DERBY OPENER TESTS TEAM:

Buchanan—Portland

/contd.

Buchanan's keeper denied Portland a quick reply stopping a shot from William Stewart, who then pounced on the rebound forcing a second save.

Two late goals by Buchanan brought the game to a close. It could have been more, were it not for Buglass' clearance in defence, lying prone on the ground after a hefty challenge.

The scoreline suggests a one-sided affair, which this most certainly was not.

*Portland High School 0
Buchanan High School 3*

Thank You

Thanks to the staff who
went along to support
the blue & white of
Portland:

Mr McInnes
Mrs Gallacher
Mr Seggie
Mr Walker
Mr Gibb
Mr Reynolds
Mr McGovern
Mr Liddle



Calderside 3 Portland 1

PORTLAND's defence were caught cold at the start of this match when a Calderside attack came close with an early-warning shot that went over the bar. Once again, Tollan fought to control the midfield but the opponent's backs forced themselves forward, and the Portland captain had to backtrack on more than one occasion.

Buglass, playing well in defence, began to push forward in support and a deft pass found Stewart on the edge of the box. His shot was met by the keeper who had quickly come to the edge of his area to deny the young striker.

Stewart's shot seemed to stir Calderside into life and a surging run resulted in a looping shot. Valiant in goal, Sproul's outstretched hand could only parry the ball onto the upright before the ball nestled in the back of the net for Calderside's opening goal.

PORTLAND's players displayed some fancy footwork on more than one occasion. Indeed, they may have fared better by sticking to the basics when required. On more than one occasion they frustrated Calderside, and the pressure began to show. It paid off when Simpson, closing in on goal from the left wing, met a through ball to score a well-worked equaliser.

Calderside's response was swift as they ran up the field as one, leaving **PORTLAND**'s keeper no chance to stop their second goal rifled into the corner of the Portland net.

The third followed almost immediately but despite being 3—1 down, **PORTLAND** fought back bravely. A lovely one-two saw a cracking shot by Matthew Tollan policed wide by the Calderside defence.

In the dying minutes of the game, following some strong wing play by Morgan, the ball was played forward again, only to be cleared for a corner. The resulting corner kick into the box could well have netted another for **PORTLAND** but Simpson was treated to more physical attention than was proper as two defenders bundled him out of contention.

Yet again, the scoreline flattered **PORTLAND**'s opponents at the final whistle.

Carrongrange 'B' Team Bring Their 'A' Game: Portland Outplayed

Portland supporters sensed something was changing as the team settled into this fixture looking comfortable. From the kick off, Buglass made an early run forward. Stewart too pushed towards the Carrongrange goal.

On the counterattack Carrongrange let fly a shot that would have opened the scoring were it not for a fine piece of keeping by Sproul in the Portland goal. His clearance was quickly returned and Carrongrange waltzed through Portland's defence to open the scoring. A swift second goal followed as Portland's defence were reorganising.

Portland had to weather a storm and, were it not for Buglass and George dealing with several attacking moves, Portland would have been trailing by more goals early on.

A blistering Carrongrange run on the left wing was quickly stopped by Morgan who was forced to make a clearance, conceding a throw in. Carrongrange pressed forward, firing the

ball low to be stopped by more courageous keeping by Sproul. It was becoming a team effort to keep Carrongrange out as Smith too made numerous saving tackles and challenges.

It was Smith's determination that almost brought a goal for Portland. Pressing and passing through the mid-



Tollan powers through midfield.

field he set up Simpson whose cracking shot just drifted wide.

The immediate response by Carrongrange was to score their third. The goal scorer's overly exuberant celebration showed the relief at having broken down the Portland defence after a sustained period of pressure and frustration.

The pressure continued, but it was soaked up by

the Portland defence. Stewart, back defending, cleared from deep and some flowing play from Smith and Buglass showed what Portland might promise.

Morgan's man marking and skill forced an error, and Carrongrange conceded a corner kick. Morgan placed a perfectly flighted ball into the Carrongrange goalmouth but, with no one there to meet it, Carrongrange were again sighing with relief.

The pressure returned and Portland's defence began to weaken in attack after attack. Some heads went down, as

a flurry of goals brought the match to a close.

Right to the final whistle, Smith and Buglass gave their all to try to salvage something for the Portland squad but the damage had been well and truly done.

**Portland High School 0
Carrongrange Thistle 7**

A Final Flourish:

A win for **PORTLAND** points the way to the future.

A team is only as good as its last result. If Portland's final game is anything to go by, the current squad have a promising future together.

The Portland team seemed to recover from the Carrongrange match as they stepped up to play Sanderson High. All the pressure came from Portland in the early minutes of this game.

Portland attackers, captain Tollan among them, were able to waltz into the Sanderson goal area. Sanderson packed the penalty area and made it near impossible for the subsequent shots to find the target.

Sanderson seemed to lack any game plan, and their hopeful shots went wild and wayward. Urged on by their coach, Sanderson put together a nice move, but Buglass and his keeper Sproul were good to the task at the back.

A fine shot by George looked netbound but just moved in the air to go wide. A minute later the young striker was denied again.

Portland were relentless in their pursuit of a goal and the deadlock was eventually broken by team captain Tollan who scored a fine goal.

A second quickly followed. Buglass, who had played strongly throughout the tournament rifled a shot into the corner of the net—certainly the best goal of the day for Portland.

This was a real team performance and it shows great promise for the future. After the considerable shake up in the team over the closed season, these new players were just finding their feet as this tournament was coming to a close.

The next outing might be something to look forward to.



Head Teacher,
Coach and team—all
delighted to finish
with a flourish.
The narrow margin
of the win shows
nothing of the sus-
tained pressure Port-
land put Sanderson
High under.