

SMA Brings Home The Cup

Annual SMA-Law Society Football Challenge Trophy (i.e. Dr YG Tan Cup)

By Dr Marcus Ang



Personally speaking, I do not usually condone vengeance or violence. But I do make exceptions and this was one of them. On 20 March 2010 at 7.14pm on the field at SAFRA Tampines, the SMA soccer team sought revenge.

You see, earlier in the year when the two sides met in the Inter-Professional Soccer Tournament, we had narrowly missed the Championship due to goal difference. We had suffered the early loss of our captain, Dr Michael Tan, as he was harshly sent off in his first game, leading to a one-match suspension against the lawyers. Though we had still gone on to defeat our next opponents, the accountants, 1-0 with

ten men, this was not enough. The lawyers had a better goal difference, and we went on to draw 2-2 with the lawyers in the final, deciding match. It was a painful loss to swallow. Not to mention the fact that we had also lost the previous “Dr YG Tan Cup” to the lawyers, and they were the holders of the cup.

Despite our pent up emotions and frustration, the “Dr YG Tan Cup” was to be played, as always, in good spirit. The pre-match handshakes and greetings exchanged with our opponents were more than just pleasantries. Some of us have played against each other over the years, since our medical and law school days. Thus the smiles and laughs amidst the usual taunts and jibes were nothing

less than sincere. However, our team had a score to settle.

Our team’s intent was made known immediately in the first five minutes. We had taken control of midfield and had the lion’s share of the possession. Comfortable from defense to attack, we began to build up a tempo to our game. The lawyers were unsettled, as we took at least four shots on the goal in the next four minutes. But we were not to be denied, as we took the lead magnificently in the 12th minute. Malcolm rampaged down the left wing to swing in a sweet cross for our top striker “number 9” Kaiwen to head into the bottom right corner, leaving the goalkeeper grasping for grass.

REPORT

The lawyers were shaken but we did not rest on our laurels. Pressing further head, we were rewarded in the 32nd minute when Kaiwen received the ball from outside the box from Malcolm once more, this time taking on three defenders before slotting sweetly home across the face of a goal. A world class strike.

Two-nil up at half time. Laughs all round the doctors' bench. But as expected, the story would not end there. Just after the whistle, a dubious penalty decision to the lawyers put the score at 2-1, setting up an edgy second half. Nevertheless, we overcame our nerves and regained possession. A free kick at the edge of the box was magnificently struck into the back of the net by midfield dynamo Farid! 3-1. We took over the game with our technical football and hearts on our sleeves. A few ugly tackles were to be expected but we sealed the game with a fourth goal. Even the last desperate goal from the lawyers could not deny us our precious win.

Revenge was exacted that day. The final whistle blew, ending an exhilarating football game, which was nothing less than a display of passion, skill and determination. The doctors had won. And yes, vengeance was ours. But worry not – there was no violence. It was just a match between two teams full of mutual respect for each other, and for this great tradition.

Match summary:

First Half

20th minute: SMA Goal! Malcolm's pinpoint cross from the left and a perfect header from Kaiwen left the GK with no chance.

32nd minute: SMA Goal! Our midfield dispossessed their defense of the ball in their own half, and Malcolm played a simple ball to Kaiwen to slot it pass the GK in a one-on-one situation.

45th minute: SMA substitution! Tony Ho (17) for Marcus Ang (8).

Match facts:

Tactics: 4-5-1

Final score = SMA (4) - Law (2)

TEAM SHEET	
SMA	
(1)	Kelvin Kuan
(2)	Alan Ho
(3)	Md Adib
(4)	Md Fareed
(5)	Ho Choon Hou
(6)	Ooi Lai Hock
(7)	Chen Min Wei
(8)	Marcus Ang
(9)	Li Kaiwen
(10)	Michael Tan
(17)	Tony Ho
(20)	James Chua
(88)	Chng Nai Wee



Dr Michael Tan (Captain of SMA Soccer Team) receiving the 'YG Tan Cup' from Lee Terk Yang (Captain of Law Society Soccer Team).

SCORING SUMMARY	
SMA	LSS
Li Kaiwen (20 th minute)	Lee Terk Yang (70 th minute, penalty)
Li Kaiwen (32 nd minute)	Lee Terk Yang (89 th minute)
Md Farid (82 nd minute)	
Li Kaiwen (85 th minute)	

Second Half

70th minute: LSS Goal! The lawyers pulled a goal back on the 70th minute through a dubious penalty awarded after a challenge by Alan on the lawyers' left-winger.

75th minute: Nervy moments with score balancing at 2-1. We started regaining control and furiously attacked LSS' goal.

78th minute: SMA substitution! Chng Nai Wee (88) for James Chua (20).

82nd minute: SMA Goal! Lawyers concede a free kick on the edge of the box, and Farid slots home with surgical precision.

85th minute: SMA Goal! 4-1. SMA team is now flying. Fancy one-two passing that leads to Kaiwen completing his hat trick, which effectively kills the game.

89th minute: Goal! Shot on goal is spilled and Lee Terk Yang pounces to score the consolation goal. **SMA**



Marcus is a junior doctor who loves to travel the world; hoping that the little he gives back, goes a long way.