



Bahamas Boys U-16 National Team Split Pair of Games With Bermuda

The Bahamas U-16 Boys National Team split a pair of games with visiting side Bermuda over the past weekend, but by virtue of a superior goal difference over the two games Bermuda advances to the next round of qualifying for the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2011.

With the National Associations agreeing to play both matches in the Bahamas, the home-away method was still employed, with the Bahamas playing its home match on Friday July 23, 2010. Some anxious moments for the local side, caused by first international match jitters, allowed the Bermudans to forge ahead with two early goals, a lead they held until the half-time break. The second half saw the Bahamas stage a comeback, and a well taken free kick from Terry Delancey brought the Bahamas team to within one goal. Within minutes, however Bermuda regained their two goal lead with a quick counter attack which seemed to break the Bahamian will. Two more goals conceded saw Bermuda run out 5-1 winners.

The return match, played on Sunday, July 25, 2010, saw a sizable crowd in attendance that was determined to prod our boys along. Some tactical changes in the line-up also seemed to bolster the team and a stellar defensive performance from Captain Harold Antor, Ashon Rolle, Malcolm Taylor and Wayne Munroe kept the Bermudans at bay for the full 90 minutes. The Bahamian team started strong and a couple of early chances to Richie Munroe narrowly missed out on giving the team the lead. They kept up the assault and were rewarded in the second half with a goal by Harold Antor after a melee from a corner kick. The Bahamians held on to this lead until the end, winning the second leg of the competition.

However, as the two matches were split, Goal aggregate became the determining factor and Bermuda's 5-1 victory in the first match gave them a decided edge, and saw them qualify for the next round. The Bahamas team saw something to build on, however, as this team proved that they could compete with other countries in the region. The matches gave the technical staff and the BFA some inspiration for the future, and the current crop of players shows that the development programmes are working. Although having not qualified, the team has established a firm foundation for Bahamian football.

