

England U20s 1 - Colombia U20s 1: Cauley Woodrow's strike sends young Lions into play-offs

GARETH SOUTHGATE was wet, but not wild, as England Under-20s guaranteed themselves one more match at the Toulon tournament.

By Phil Cadden / Published 31st May 2014



SUPER WOOD: Cauley Woodrow fires home for England [GETTY]

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The Young Lions boss saw his side book a place in the third/fourth place play-off thanks to Cauley Woodrow's second goal in three days.

It was pretty much a damp squib of a performance and things didn't get much better for Southgate after the match when he was soaked by sprinkler.

But he was pleased at finishing above South Korea on goal difference in their group to set up a clash with Portugal in Avignon tomorrow.

Southgate said: "I got hit by a sprinkler and that was the most entertaining part of the afternoon.

"We haven't played in a manner that we'd want and the lads are disappointed with the way the game has gone. But they had to grind a result out.

"It was a game where we just had to play the conditions in the first half. It was remarkable with the wind and it was difficult because balls that were played along the ground were holding up while the surface was sticky.

"This group of lads have not had the chance to play together, but to get a required result and get us through in a competition is a plus.

"We have proved in the past that we can play better football than that, but what we had to do was show some resilience and character.



LEVELLER: Jhoao Rodriguez of Colombia celebrates scoring their Columbia's equaliser [GETTY]

"The tournament has been an invaluable experience for us and the players deserve the opportunity to finish third now. If we can finish it positively on Sunday then we can go home very happy with what we've done."

Southgate made eight changes for the final group tie, but one constant was Woodrow and the Fulham striker found the net on 15 minutes.

The 19-year-old followed up his strike in the 1-1 draw with the Koreans by capitalising on a mix-up between Colombian defensive pair Aldayr Hernandez and Daniel Londono.

Centre-back Hernandez smashed the ball into the back of left-back Londono and the ball broke to Woodrow, who coolly sent Alvaro Montero the wrong way.

Yet England, just like against Korea 48 hours earlier, failed to cash in on their advantage and they were rocked with 12 minutes left when Jhoao Rodriguez flicked home Andres Tello's cross.

Colombia kept pressing and Southgate's side were holding on as Gustavo Torres and Rodin Quinones both hit the side-netting in the dying seconds.

Southgate added: "It ended up being all about getting through because of the nature of the game.

"The way the human brain works, once you go to 1-1 they inevitably get a lift because they had nothing resting on the game other than pride so they could take chances.

"In the minds of our players I'm sure they felt that having been ahead and only needing a draw then they had everything to lose.

"In the last two games we've had to withstand that spell of pressure in the last ten to 15 minutes and that has been a good test for us."

"We haven't played in a manner that we'd want and the lads are disappointed with the way the game has gone"

Gareth Southgate

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