

Swindon Supermarine 8-0 Slimbridge

Tuesday 6th March 2017

High flying Supermarine in dominant form against the Swans who were taken apart in the second half as they continue to struggle with injuries and poor form having lost Adam Mace before the game and a fourth player in Tom Hoskins stretchered from the pitch in consecutive games.

Swindon dominated the game for the full 90 minutes and only for some brave defending from Korey Pring and keeper Ollie Hall the score line could have been much worse. Slimbridge were missing a number of key players with Lee Smith and Liam Gale drafted into the attack Kieran Squires replacing the injured Adam Mace, Manager Fred Ward taking over in midfield from Alex Hoyle who broke his foot in the Mangotsfield game and Jamie Martin returning to the club taking a place on the bench.

The home sides Zac Westlake had the first chance of the game heading onto the bar from an early corner. A strike from the middle of a crowded goal mouth Bradley Gray struck a post on 15 minutes, Pring then blocked the follow up on the line before the Swans managed to clear the danger. However a minute later the Swans conceded their first goal, Michael Hopkins run down the left resulted in a pinpoint cross to Joe Selman who neatly controlled the ball before slamming home past the helpless Hall.

Despite the continued pressure from the home side Slimbridge managed to hold on, Hall managing somehow to keep out Connor Thompsons shot juggling it out for a corner. Tom Hoskins picked up a knock to the same side of the face that he injured in pre-season late in the half but was able to carry on after treatment.

On 42 minutes a Supermarine free kick found Gray in space to turn a shot past Hall to double the home sides lead. A minute later Slimbridge first foray into the home side's box resulted in Marley Thomas's cross from the right finding keeper Josh Hill who up to that point had barely touched the ball. The home side went 3-0 up on 44 minutes, Gray's deflected shot from 10 yards hitting the back of the net.

On the stroke of half time Hoskins ran the ball into the opposing half before being robbed by Jon Else, and then collapsed suffering the aftereffects of his previous knock. After a lengthy stoppage he was stretchered from the field to be replaced by Sean Lawson.

The second half continued much the same as the first, Gray completing his hatrick on 47 minutes Hall saving his initial shot but reached to head in the rebound. Thompson made it five on 52 minutes direct from a free kick 25 yards out after a foul by Ward.

A minute later Gray grabbed his fourth and Marines sixth from close range, before finally after 67 minutes Joe Stokes got a shot away after some industrious work from Jamie Martin however it flew just over from 20 yards. The seventh goal came along on 82 minutes from Westlake his close range shot beating Hall. The eighth and final goal arrived on the stroke of full time Joe Selman getting on the end of Hopkins cross to score at the back post to leave a tired and jaded Slimbridge team to regroup for the visit of Barnstaple on Saturday.

Slimbridge: Hall, Turl, Quires, Pring, Hoskins (Lawson 45), Ward, Turner, Stokes, Smith (Martin 66), Gale (84), Thomas