

Barnstaple Town 0-3 Slimbridge

Saturday 14th September 2019

Swans win big on the road

Slimbridge returned to winning ways down in Devon, Ryan Beckinsale making his first league start upfront and new signing Jack Goodhall lining up at fullback.

It was Barnstaple Town that took the game by the scruff of the neck from the start putting pressure on the Swans defence. A couple of early set pieces were dealt with well by the visitors, new boy Jack Goodhall lost the ball on the right and the cross was cleared behind by loan Richards.

The visitors after a slow start got into their passing game and took control, Beckinsale on the left fed a pass through to Sol Wanjau-Smith who fired past keeper Steven Oliver to open the scoring on 11 minutes.

About eight minutes later, Adam Bloomfield forced a good save from Oliver to push the ball past the post for a Swans corner. A minute later Wanjau-Smith's effort was tipped wide by Oliver and the resulting corner saw Will Peck's header sail just wide.

On 24 minutes a poor back pass for Barnstaple saw Oliver claim at the feet of Bloomfield as he chased in. Wanjau-Smith created a couple more efforts but could only find the home keeper. Just past the half hour mark, Beckinsale fired wide after some good work down the Slimbridge right.

Joe Wright was alert from a home free kick on the edge of the box and was able to take a simple catch. Into first half injury time Bloomfield had the opportunity to increase the Swans lead but his shot fell inches the wrong side of the far post to give the visitors a single goal lead at the break.

The start of the second half was fairly even until 53 minutes when Bloomfield latched onto a through ball, as he pushed the ball past Oliver he was brought down inside the box and the Swans were awarded a penalty. Wanjau-Smith stepped up and sent Oliver the wrong way to increase the visitors lead.

Slimbridge continued to knock the ball around with confidence and got a third goal on 64 minutes. Peck down the left pushed the ball inside to Wanjau-Smith who squared to Beckinsale and after taking a touch fired low past the home stopper from the edge of the box to score his first goal for the club.

A neat move on 73 minutes involving Dean Turner, Beckinsale and Leighton Tuodolo resulted in Tuodolo's cross being claimed by Oliver. With just over ten minutes remaining home striker and former Swan Tornado Bello fired over when in space while at the other end Dean Turner's effort was deflected wide. A few moments later Wanjau-Smith's cross was scrambled away from inside the box with a couple of Swans lurking.

Slimbridge had a scare at the back with only 5 minutes remaining, Wrights kick was charged down by Scott Sharp fortunately for Wright it cannoned straight back to him. With eight minutes of injury time being played, it was the home side that were looking for a consolation Richards clearing a dangerous corner before Brian Levian headed a cross over the bar.

Slimbridge face a tough test at Thornhill Park next weekend taking on Mangotsfield United with a 3pm kick off.

Slimbridge: Wright, Goodall, Peck, M Turner, White, Richards, Tuodolo (King 76), D Turner, Bloomfield (Chambers 76), Beckinsale (Horrell 81), Wanjau-Smith

Subs not used: C Turner, M Ford

Attendance: 148

Supporter's man of the match: Dean Turner