

Slimbridge 2-0 Basingstoke Town

Saturday 31st August 2019

Swans ease to first league victory

Slimbridge manager Lee Driver-Dickerson made four changes to the side that faced Evesham in mid-week. 17 year-old Joe Wright taking over from the injured Lewis Adams in goal and a re-shuffle at the back saw Mike Ford and Joel Letori starting alongside loan Richards returning to the club on dual registration with Gloucester City, Tyrone Tucker-Dixon also starting his first game for the club up front.

Basingstoke started brightly gaining a free kick after 3 minutes, the initial kick was blocked by the new look Swans defence and the follow up curled wide.

Adam Bloomfield who caused the visitors all sorts of trouble during the game with his pace broke to offside trap and a last ditch tackle gained the home side a corner for his efforts.

As the home side grew in confidence they started pushing forward with numbers, great linkup play between Bloomfield and Myron Turner in the middle released Tucker-Dixon on the right his dangerous cross into the box was headed wide for a Swans corner.

The opening goal for Slimbridge came on twenty minutes when Dean Turner pushed a delightful ball forward for Bloomfield to run onto which he slotted past Christopher Rackley in doing so scoring his first senior goal for the club.

Three minutes later Slimbridge extended their lead, a foul on Sol Wanjau-Smith on the edge of the box saw the lively winger step up and chip the ball over the wall and into the net despite Rackley getting his hands to the ball on the way through.

The second goal settled the home side and they started to play the flowing football seen in recent games, Wanjau-Smith burst into the box feeding the ball to Dean Turner but his first time shot was blocked and out for a Swans corner. From the corner Bloomfield got a shot away which was deflected wide for a second corner. This was initially cleared to Richards who fired straight at Rackley.

On 36 minutes a great chance to put the game out of sight for the home side when Dion Chambers and Myron Turner linked up to set Tucker-Dixon free on the right cutting into the box his shot just evaded the goal at the far post.

In first half injury time the Swans did well to twice block Ben Cook's efforts as the visitors looked for a way back into the game.

It was Basingstoke that took the initiative in the second half Reece Rusher firing over the bar then turned provider breaking down the right wing before squaring to Claudio Herbert who with only Wright to beat sliced his shot wide.

Two minutes later Wanjau-Smith on the left found Bloomfield whose cross evaded the visiting keeper and fell to Myron Turner on the far side but he skied his shot over the bar.

Basingstoke hit Slimbridge on the break again this time it was Rusher who fired wide. Shortly after another chance for the visitors when Harrison Cliff fired wide. With just 10 minutes remaining Wright in the Slimbridge goal pulled off a great save to deny Cliff from close range then Christien Turner pulled off a last ditch tackle to keep the Swans two goal advantage.

Deep into injury time Wright got a touch to Andrady's 30 yard shot which came crashing back off the bar and cleared to safety.

This Tuesday Slimbridge travel to Burnham for their Emarites FA Cup preliminary round replay, the club are running a coach to the game leaving the ground at 4pm. Should they win the game, Slimbridge will face Tiverton Town in the first qualifying round at Thornhill Park next Saturday.

Slimbridge: Wright, Ford, Letori, Chambers (Bekinsale 85), C Turner, Richards, Tucker-Dixon (Spruce 64), D Turner, Bloomfield, M Turner, Wanjau-Smith (Horrell 79)

Unused subs: Handley, White

Basingstoke Town: Rackley, Harris (Andrady 59), Everiss, Stow, Charsley, Linturn, Herbert, Cliff, Wright, Cook, Rusher

Attendance: 132

Supporter's man of the match: Joe Wright