

Slimbridge 5-2 Evesham United

Wednesday 1st January 2020

Swans continue to soar with another five star performance

After yet another superb performance by Slimbridge in front of their highest crowd of the season against a good Evesham United side they now sit just a point outside the playoff places and only 2 points from third position. It shows how much the club has achieved this year, as they have now secured more points and having scored one less goal than the whole of last season and we have only just reached the half way point.

Lee Driver-Dickerson and Alex Lumsden were forced into a late re-jiggle of the team that won the last two games with Joel White missing due to family commitments, Dan King injured and late call-offs from Adam Price and Korey Pring. Dion Chambers duly slotted into the back four, Jack Horrell dropping into midfield and Rhys Sarson up front with under-18 starlet Ethan Dunbar taking to the bench.

The game started well for Evesham who had much of the early possession, Paul Sullivan heading a cross from the right straight at Lewis Adams after only 4 minutes. A few minutes later Harry Franklin shot over from a visitor's corner as the home side did well to contain the Robins constant threat.

On 10 minutes a free kick to Evesham was saved by Adams, who cleared the initial danger before Jordon Sangha fired back in to Adams arms.

The Swans came back into the game with style on 20 minutes taking the lead through Ryan Beckinsale, picking the ball up on the left and letting fly from 25 yards out into the net via the far post. Beckinsale then forced a great save from Jonathan Brown after a good team move from the back.

The home side doubled their lead just before the half hour mark, Will Peck chipping the ball through to Rhys Sarson who made no mistake from 15 yards out. A stunned Evesham side then came back into the game Franklin's shot finding Adams then Adams blocked Lee Chilton's week effort.

With a minute to go before half time the Slimbridge defence did well, Christien Turner blocking an effort to concede a corner. From the corner Aaron Nesbeth cleared the ball from the line in a crowded box. In injury time Sangha's long range shot fell wide.

It was Slimbridge that started the second half brightly, Beckinsale linking up with Horrell on the right whose shot sailed wide. Minutes later Horrell fired another shot this time over the bar. At the other end Franklin fired wide before the lively Chilton blazed over the bar.

On 56 minutes the Swans scored a third, Sarson ran the ball from the half way line finding Horrell on the right his cross was met by Beckinsale to tap in at the far post.

Three minutes later Sullivan hit the bar with Adams beaten. Evesham were given the chance to get back into the game when they were awarded a penalty on 61 minutes for a foul inside the box which was expertly dispatched past Adams by Sullivan.

Slimbridge were not sitting back on their lead, Mike Ford firing over when in space after a good run from Sol Wanjau-Smith. Brown was then forced into action saving Horrell's free kick on the edge of the box.

With just over 15 minutes to go Adams pulled off a great stop from Sullivan who was through on goal with just the keeper to beat. At the other end the Swans had a great chance to increase their lead Wanjau-Smith somehow firing over the bar from a couple of yards out at the far post after latching onto Horrell's pinpoint cross. Seconds later they did extend the lead the goal kick from Brown was poor landing directly at the feet of Sarson who duly returned the ball into an empty net to give the home side a three goal cushion.

On 80 minutes it was game over for Evesham, Wanjau-Smith passing a delightful through ball from which Beckinsale made no mistake in firing past Brown and scoring his first hat-trick in the Swans colours.

Evesham pulled a consolation back with 3 minutes remaining, Chilton getting on the end of a cross from the left to tap in past a stranded Adams.

Victory maintains Slimbridge in 6th place with a trip on Saturday to Highworth Town next on the agenda for the high flying Swans and with it a chance to rise into a playoff position.

Slimbridge: Adams, Nesbeth, Peck, Ford, Chambers, C Turner, Horrell (Tuodolo 87), M Turner, Sarson (Martin 77), Beckinsale, Wanjau-Smith (Spruce 83)

Unused subs: D Turner, E Dunbar

Attendance: 196

Supporter's man of the match: Ryan Beckinsale