

Hellenic League Premier Division

Wednesday 27 October 2010

Slimbridge 2-0 Pegasus Juniors

18th Birthday boy Ross Langworthy was the difference between the two sides as Slimbridge moved up to second place in the UHlsport Hellenic Premier League with a 2-0 victory over a determined Pegasus Juniors side this evening at Wisloe Road. After a goalless first period, Langworthy put the Swans in the driving seat with a goal after 47 minutes, and it was his pinpoint pass threaded through the Pegasus back line which allowed Danny Chandler to finish the game off with seven minutes left.

With regular keeper Dave Evans unavailable, Slimbridge fans were treated to the sight of Adam Thomas back between the sticks for the night. At the back, John Hazel made way for Tom Speers, back after a dose of chickenpox. Assistant Manager Fred Ward and Langworthy came into the midfield for Ben Wood and Lewis Wilton, and Danny Chandler returned to the side, with Marvin Roberts dropping to the bench.

The Swans started brightly and Chandler immediately began to ask questions of the Pegasus defence with some clever runs across their back four. Chandler had the first good opportunity for the home side after 10 minutes when he broke through on goal, but shot a little early and allowed Keeper Liam Brewer to make a stop. As Slimbridge continued to press, a flowing move two minutes later involving Ward, Craig Cole and Paul Carter saw Cole just overrun the ball and allow Brewer to gather.

Speers was the next Slimbridge player to try his luck, a blistering shot on 17 minutes, following a clearance from Pegasus defender Mike Symonds, which just drifted past the post. Slimbridge created probably the chance of the half on 33 minutes - Chandler played in Langworthy, who dinked the ball over Keeper Brewer, only to see the ball cleared off the line by a backtracking defender. As the one way traffic continued, Carter saw his shot hit the bar and bounce over on 35 minutes, again created by a Chandler run down the right flank, but the first half finished scoreless.

Manager Leon Sterling introduced Marvin Roberts to the fray at half time, replacing Craig Cole, and Roberts made an immediate impact. His shot on 47 minutes was parried by Keeper Brewer, but Carter picked up the loose ball on the left flank, and crossed back in for Langworthy to tuck the ball in and put the home side ahead.

The second half continued in the same vein as the first, with Slimbridge applying all the pressure, but a spirited Pegasus side, although rarely looking like scoring themselves, were doing a fine job of frustrating the efforts of their hosts. Carter saw a terrific effort pushed over the bar by Brewer in the 58th minute, and two minutes later, Chandler blazed the ball over after another good move involving Carter had put him in space.

Chandler once more brought a good save from Brewer in the 66th minute, although he should have done better when put through on goal. Micky Bryant was the next to try his luck for the home side, his shot headed clear when it looked to be heading for the top corner, but still Pegasus held firm.

The Pegasus defence was finally breached again with seven minutes remaining - Speers fed Langworthy, and his precise pass saw Chandler again though on goal, and this time he made no mistake, beating Brewer comprehensively to double the Swans' advantage.

Will Wellon had a chance to add his name to the scoresheet, but skewed the ball well wide from 25 yards, and the Swans played out the remaining minutes for a well deserve and very important victory.

On Saturday, Slimbridge travel to Thame United in the League (3.00pm), before entertaining League Leaders Ardley United at Wisloe Road next Wednesday, 3rd November (7.45pm)

Team: Thomas, Cornwall, Wellon, Hine, Speers, Ward (Inch 65), Langworthy, Bryant, Cole (Roberts 45), Chandler, Carter

Goals: Langworthy 47, Chandler 83