

Hellenic League Premier Division

Wednesday 22 September 2010

Slimbridge 2-0 Wantage Town

The Swans recorded a very impressive and morale boosting win against UHlsport Hellenic Premier League high flyers Wantage Town this evening, with two goals from Craig Cole, one in each half, securing the points and capping a very satisfactory evening for the home side. The win puts Slimbridge on top of the Premier League, a point ahead of Kidlington, where they travel on Saturday in another big fixture.

Dave Evans returned to the Swans' line up in goal following his suspension, with his replacement Ashley Gayle dropping to the bench. Manager Leon Sterling moved himself into the back four, replacing Tom Cole, and shuffled his midfield - Fred Ward coming in for Lewis Wilton. Craig Cole returned up front with Ross Langworthy dropping to the bench.

After a bright start from both sides, Slimbridge were the first to land a telling blow - In the ninth minute, Leone Cornwall's clearance down the Slimbridge left was seized on by Craig Cole, who beat his defender on the edge of the Wantage box, and slid the ball past Keeper Gareth Tucker to put the home side ahead.

There was plenty of good football from both side, although chances were few and far between - Wantage hit back in the 16th minute when Richie Guy broke past Tom Speers, who had a magnificent afternoon at the heart of the Slimbridge defence, and put in a good shot, which Dave Evans fumbled, but the Keeper recovered and grabbed the loose ball before any damage could occur.

Five minutes later, Evans was called into action again, punching clear from a well placed free kick after Spears was penalised for a foul on the edge of the box.

The second half was ten minutes old when Graham Edney hit the first of three good efforts on the Slimbridge goal, firing over from a free kick. But five minutes later, the home side's lead was doubled - The Swans broke swiftly from a Wantage corner, and Danny Chandler made a weaving run down the Swans' left. He cross managed to evade all the backtracking Wantage defenders, and Craig Cole was in position again to sidestep Tucker, and managed to thread his shot past three Wantage defenders on the goal line to put Slimbridge 2 up.

Edney continued his one man crusade to put the visitors on the scoreboard, with two rasping shots from 25 and 30 yards out, in the 63rd and 65th minutes. Six minutes later, Gavin Jones was played into the Swans' penalty area, and Evans made a nice stop to maintain his clean sheet.

As Wantage upped the pressure again in the last quarter of an hour, fine work by Spears, Hine, Cornwall and Sterling at the back for Slimbridge repelled the attacks, and the Swans held on for a very impressive victory.

Team: Evans, Cornwall, Wellon, Sterling, Speers, Hine, Bryant, Ward, Chandler (Seville 75), Cole (Langworthy 80), Carter (Mann 66)

Goals: Cole 9, 60