

FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

Saturday 20 August 2011

Slimbridge 3-1 Bradford Town

The Swans overcame a stubborn Bradford Town side to progress in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round, and now will face Cadbury Heath at Wisloe Road on September 3rd, with Leon Sterling's substitutions again proving crucial in determining the outcome of this tie.

After an even first half, the momentum of the game swung on the 42nd minute dismissal of Bradford's Kieron Baggs, who was shown the red card by Referee Jonathan Davies for stamping on Swans' Assistant Manager Freddy Ward.

After the break, Slimbridge capitalised on their one man advantage, and two goals in quick succession from Marvin Roberts (56 minutes) and Jamie Martin (61 minutes) put the home side in the driving seat. Martin notched his second of the game on 73 minutes, and Paul Gittens scored a consolation goal for the visitors two minutes later.

Manager Leon Sterling made two changes from the side which triumphed over Wantage Town in midweek, with Brad Martin returning to his left back role, and Jamie Inch returning to the centre of defence, replacing Tom Cole and Micky Bryant, with Rob Hine moving forward into midfield.

Bradford nearly took the lead with just 32 seconds on the clock, when Liam Milburn was left in space on the edge of the Slimbridge box, and just missed the target with his effort. Slimbridge responded, and some of their best early moves involve Captain Marvin Roberts - his lay offs to Paul Carter created a couple of good chances in the first five minutes as the home side pressed. The game swung from end to end, and Dave Evans needed to be alert after six minutes when a dangerous corner from Kieron Baggs forced him to make a good puch. The oncoming Liam Milburn was injured in the collision as he challenged with the Swans' stopper.

With 16 minutes gone, the best move of the game so far saw a sweeping Slimbridge move involving Hine and Carter saw the latter balloon his shot over the bar. With passes going astray from both sides, there was a lack of real clear cut chances from either side as the half developed. Probably the best chance came when Karl Nash and Carter combined to play in Marvin Roberts on 33 minutes, but his shot was wide of the target.

With half time three minutes away, Kieron Baggs received a straight red card for stamping on Freddy Ward as the Swans man lay on the ground following a challenge. Following a consultation with his linesman, Referee Jonathan Davies had no hesitation in dismissing the Bradford player to leave them to play the rest of the game a man short.

As might be expected, the momentum of the game swung towards the home side in the second period, and with 46 minutes on the clock, Ward's lovely 1-2 with Lewis Wilton created a fine chance for Carter, but again his shot failed to hit the target. On 55 minutes, Jamie Martin replaced Karl Nash, and the striker nearly scored with his very first touch, bring a good save on his near post from Bradford Keeper Lewis Porter after a neat Ward Free Kick into the Bradford box.

The breakthrough for the home side came a minute later, when Carter's cross from the left was deftly flicked home by the head of Roberts to put the Swans ahead. Roberts then had a hand in the second goal 5 minutes later - it was his cross into the Bradford box which fell to the unmarked Jamie Martin, who slammed the ball past Porter to double the home side's advantage.

Martin's second put the game beyond doubt on 73 minutes after a Slimbridge break which resulted in Carter's cross eluding the incoming Rob Hine, but running free to Martin to slide home.

Two minutes later, Bradford were given a glimmer of hope when Paul Gittens rifled home a superb effort from the edge of the Slimbridge box, but the home side never lost their grip on the game, and Roberts, Martin and Hine all had chances to increase the goal tally before the final whistle.

The Swans travel to Shrivenham on Tuesday night, before entertaining Binfield and Highworth Town over the Bank Holiday weekend (Saturday and Monday, both 3.00pm Kick Offs).

Team: Evans, Cornwall, B. Martin, Wellon, Inch, Hine, Carter (Anson 80), Ward, Roberts, Nash (J. Martin 55), Wilton

Goals: Roberts 56, J. Martin 61, 73