



DPL – NEWSLETTER - 32



Match Reports Saturday 24th March 2018

DPL LEAGUE CUP SEMI FINAL

"WESTLANDS LIKE THE TASTE OF BALTI TO PROGRESS"

WESTLAND SPORTS 3 BALTI SPORTS 1

Westlands made it through to this season’s final and in doing so kept alive their chance for Double Cup success alongside their Somerset Senior Cup exploits. The hosts made the early running with a couple of corners and it was from a corner that they opened the scoring in the 9th minute. The ball across was half cleared out to the edge of the box where Jonny Manley hit it low and hard shot through the crowd and into the back of the net. With the early goal behind them Westlands kept the pressure on the visitors and a shot from Haydn Hodges cannoned off the inside of the post and flew across the face of the goal with Balti keeper Marco Nott rooted to the spot. In the 37th minute the home team made it 2-0 when Josh Payne was bundled over in the box and Haydn Hodges smashed the resultant spot kick into the top corner. A good first half for Westlands but at 2-0 the visitors were not out of it by any means. Balti came out in determined mood for the second half and Westlands keeper Sam Watts had to make a couple of good saves to deny the visitors. With a player sin-binned now, the home team were on the back foot and the visitors had their best spell of the match. However, with Sam Watts in good form Westlands survived and once they were restored to 11 men, they increased their lead in the 70th minute. Jamie Irwin got to the bye line and chipped the ball across for Josh Payne to head in off the underside of the bar. That looked to be that, but Balti kept plugging away and they were rewarded in the 85th minute when Danny Andrews was felled in the box and he stuck the spot kick away to make the final score 3-1.

This seasons **LEAGUE CUP FINAL** will be between;



DATE: TBC
VENUE: TBC
KO: TBC

"TANGERINES LEAVE A SOUR TASTE FOR REC"

HAMWORTHY REC 1 GILLINGHAM TOWN 3

Rec slumped to their first home reverse of the season and their first home defeat for 15 months at the hands of a highly capable Gillingham side who thoroughly deserved their win that sees them leapfrog over Rec to the top of the table. The hosts never got to grips with a bog of a pitch and the visitors certainly coped much the better. At times Rec were guilty of being too intricate and several passes went astray. After an even start Rec had the first real chance of note when a cross from the left saw Ross Hampton-Brown just fail to get a touch from close-range. That proved decisive, as on 19 minutes Gillingham were

in front after a corner ended up with Jack Baker scoring with a low shot from the edge of the area that eluded Sam Jones in the home goal. Rec responded with a fine team move which ended with Lewis Proudley's attempt blocked for a corner. Gill headed a good chance over the bar, before on 40 minutes their lead was doubled. Rec were guilty of some naive defending allowing Macaulay Biddle a turn and shot which Jones tried to keep out, but the ball had clearly crossed the line to double the lead for the men in orange. Two minutes later Rec were back in it when the visiting keeper could only parry a goal bound shot and Jimmy Osbourne nipped in to slam in the rebound. HT 1-2. The second half saw Rec barely have a sniff of a chance. Callum Charlton's ball in the box was easily caught by the keeper under pressure from Chris Long. Gill still looked dangerous on the break and had a chance cleared off the line, before on 72 minutes it was game over when they scored with a clever glancing header from Ashley Clarke following a corner, with the ball going in off the far post. Rec still had plenty of the ball, but never created any chances and the well-drilled Gillingham defence was seldom troubled. A bad day at the office for Rec, but hopefully, this will be the "kick up the backside" the team need as they enter a hectic end to the season but take nothing away from an excellent performance from the men from North Dorset.

"MERLEY WIN AT THE ROCKIES"

SHAFTESBURY RES 2 MERLEY CS 4

This impressive win on the road sees Merley move into 3rd place in the League table, the visitors took an early lead when Matt Groves scored with a well taken effort into the bottom corner of the net, the visitors continued to dominate and had another good effort tipped over by the home keeper however he was powerless to stop the visitors doubling their lead on 16 minutes when Jack Mills scored with a superb volley into the roof of the net. Just before half time, the hosts gave themselves a lifeline back into the game when Adam Burford reduced the arrears, again with a volley. This comeback was short lived as Merley pressed again and right on half time they were awarded a penalty duly dispatched by Groves to restore the visitors 2 goal lead, HT 1-3. The second half was a cagier affair; however, the home side again reduced the arrears in the 65th minute following Callum Bents poachers goal. The home side were then reduced to 10 men following Lee Gales sin binning and whilst the hosts were a player short, Groves helped himself to his hat trick and Merley's 4th with another neat finish. This time there was no way back for the hosts as the visitors saw the game out for 3 well deserved points.

"ROYALS AND BULLS SHARE THE POINTS"

BLANDFORD UTD 1 HOLT UTD 1

Blandford Utd will see this as 2 points lost against Holt as an injury time equaliser salvaged a point for the visitors. In a good game with plenty of chances for both sides, the hosts took the lead in the 8th minute when the visitor's Nathan Redwood turned a Rob Manson cross into his own net. This early lead was held onto until the 92nd minute of the game when Holt's ever reliable goal machine, Nathan Saxby notched to break the home sides hearts. All in all, a fair result given the balance of the game however Saxby's late strike left the hosts totally gutted.

"10 GOAL COUNTY GROUND THRILLER"

HAMWORTHY UTS RES 4 MERE TOWN 6

A 10-goal thriller was witnessed by those in attendance at the County Ground as visitors Mere Town eventually secured the win with Joe Patterson helping himself to a Hat trick. The visitors got off to a perfect start with 2 goals in 2 minutes, the 1st on 5 minutes from Patterson's well taken strike from the edge of the area, 1 minute later and their lead was doubled as Jack Twyford slotted his low shot in. Back came the hosts and Todd Coombes reduced the arrears on 8 minutes. 5 minutes later and the visitors extended their lead again when Jordan Shorrocks scrambled home an effort. After this frenetic start, the game settled down Sam Carter pulled 1 back in the 36th minute only for the Hammers to draw level 1 minute later through Richard Garley, HT 3-3. Early in the second half the hosts cause was not helped when Declan Randall received his 2nd yellow of the game, however on 57 minutes they edged in front when Carter bagged his 2nd and the Hammers 4th. Hamworthy defended their lead resolutely as Mere looked for a way back into the game and eventually it came for the visitors when a Ryan Down header drew them level in the 74th minute. 5 minutes later Mere went back in front as Patterson scored from just outside the box. With time running out Mere scored again when Patterson secured his Hat trick and Mere's 6th with a deflected shot.