



18/19 NEWSLETTER - 11



Match Reports

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“BALTI EXTEND UNBEATEN RUN WITH SWANS DRAW”

BALTI SPORTS 1 SWANAGE TOWN & H 1



Balti Sports recovered from conceding after just 14 seconds to earn a 1-1 draw with Swanage Town & Herston in their Dorset Premier League clash at Weymouth College. Tommy Beard took advantage of slack play by Balti's Sammy Nichols before unleashing a long-range drive that beat home goalkeeper Andy Nott with the match barely underway. Swans' Garan Bennett then had a shot cleared off the line as a lacklustre Sports' side nearly fell 2-0 behind. A shell-shocked Balti only got into their stride midway through the first half but could not find an equaliser before

the break, prompting strong words from boss Marco Nott. And their admonishment paid dividends when, on 49 minutes, Danny Andrews swept up possession from a corner before crossing for captain Ryan Dovell to nod home from six yards. Both sides had chances to win the game thereafter, with Balti twice spurning gilt-edged opportunities. Ricky Lane was put through on goal by Ethan Devaney, but the striker elected for power rather than placement and lashed his effort off the top of the bar. Andrews went on to waste a one-on-one in shooting straight at the Swanage keeper as Balti were forced to settle for a share of the points, extending their unbeaten run to nine games. Speaking to Echosport, boss Nott admitted his side needed to find a way to win after drawing five of those nine fixtures. He said: "It's frustrating. We had some clear-cut chances where we should have won, then they had a couple of chances. I guess it was a fair result. It's probably the worst I've seen us play in the first half this season, they scored within 14 seconds. It was a case of walking through our midfield and shooting from distance. "We just didn't get going at all until the half-hour mark – we started to play some reasonably good stuff. I had some words at half-time and they woke up and scored the equaliser." Commenting on the number of draws his charges have been involving, Nott felt one positive was that Sports are "hard to beat". He said: "It seems to be the way we're doing it. "We've only lost one game out of 11, including cups. It's positive we're getting some results, but we need to start picking up wins. We seem to be hard to beat at the moment which is a good habit to get in to."

Report Courtesy of the; **DorsetECHO**

“GILLINGHAM RUN RIOT IN THE PURBECKS”

WAREHAM RANGERS 1 GILLINGHAM TOWN 12

Gillingham trounced a sorry Wareham side at Purbeck Sports Centre. A third minute strike from Nick Thomson set the tone for the afternoon as Gillingham dominated and claimed another four goals before the half ended from Elliot Bevis, Ashley Clarke, Will Pike and another from Nick Thomson. Wareham briefly looked like staging a comeback as they pegged Gillingham back with a well taken goal from Josh Hewson, however nothing was going to stop Gillingham in this rampant mood, HT 1-5. The second half started the same way and Gillingham added another seven without reply, Nick Thomson completed his hat-trick, Buddy O Shea grabbed himself a second half hat-trick, Brad Hansford added the final touches to a fabulous performance, after Wareham added to their own woes by conceding two own goals. Credit must be given to Wareham as they battled throughout the game, but the win moved Gillingham up to fourth in the table, boosted goal difference and gives a firm foundation to build their campaign on.

“REC MARCH ON BY TAMING THE ZEBRAS”

SHERBORNE TOWN RES 0 HAMWORTHY REC 3

In the end this was a comfortable for Rec, but they were far from their best. They failed to build on an early lead and Sherborne were always in it, at only one goal behind. But Rec recovered from an indifferent start to the second half and scored the clinching, second goal on 65 minutes. Manager, Kirk Grice brought in 16-year-old Jack Martin to play in goal (Rec's third keeper this season) and he can feel well pleased with his performance, showing confidence and maturity beyond his years. The first real chance came when Callum Charlton's cross just eluded Chris Long, but on 14 minutes it was 0-1 when Long chased a through-ball and cleverly robbed the defender and keeper to walk the ball into the net. Rec were on top, but the final ball was letting them down and it took a brave save by Martin, at the feet of an attacker, to preserve the lead. Josh Pratt and Charlton combined well, with the former's cross flashing across the face of goal, before Long's chip went over the bar. Then the lively Charlton's cross was headed back by Ross Hampton-Brown to Long, only for his header to be over the bar, HT 0-1. Rec almost doubled their lead in their first attack of the second half, but Brad Hill's great cross was headed onto the post by Charlton. Play then became sloppy and the hosts always looked capable of scoring - coming close when a corner flashed across the face of goal and away to safety. But on 65 minutes Rec scored the vital second goal when Long and John Webb set up Jordan Basing who shot low into the corner to make it 0-2. Martin then showed his worth, saving a 25-yard effort, before tipping a 30-yard shot over the bar. Rec were playing better now and Long was unlucky when his header from Hill's cross was just wide, but on 82 minutes it was three when the industrious Webb fed Basing, to grab his 2nd and Rec's 3rd with another cool finish.

“MERLEY CONQUER THE ROCKIES”

MERLEY CS 7 SHAFTESBURY RES 1

Merley were quick out of the blocks and had already seen a couple of chances go begging before Matt Groves latched onto a Lee Wilkins through ball to make it 1-0 on 5 mins. Attack after attack followed and Merley doubled their lead on 14 mins when Josh Buck muscled his way down the left flank and centred for Asa Phillips to side foot home. With 24 mins on the clock, a Jamie Moore's free kick from the half way line was nodded down into the danger area where Ellis George was waiting to make it 3-0. Just three mins later and Merley were 4-0 up when Phillips turned provider for Groves to curl in his second of the game. Merley went 5-0 in front on 34 mins when Groves completed his hat trick from the penalty spot after Josh Buck was brought down in the box, HT 5-1. The hosts struggled to find their rhythm after the break as is often the case when you're 5-0 up. A shell-shocked Shaftesbury finally got themselves going and reduced the arrears on the hour mark when Harry Gough pounced on a momentary lapse of concentration in the home defence, but that was as good as it got for the lacklustre visitors. It was enough to refocus the home side who spent the last half hour of the game in full attacking mode, with Brandon Randall, Lee Wilkins, Groves and Phillips all going close. It was Josh Buck though who found the net next on 75 mins, meeting a cross from Groves at the back post for 6-1. Merley wrapped up the scoring on 88 mins with a superb team goal. Ellis George and Asa Phillips linked up with Brandon Randall with some delightful one touch football for Randall to make it 7-1.

“WESTLAND WIN THE SPORTS BATTLE”

WESTLAND SPORTS 3 DORCHESTER SPORTS 1

The visitors started brightly and took the lead in the 12th minute. A long ball through the middle saw a mix-up in the home defence which allowed Jamie Rawlings to nip in and put the ball in the empty net. Westlands equaliser came after 25 minutes when Jamie Irwin was tripped in the box and he picked himself up to thump in the spot kick, HT 1-1. In the second half Westlands upped the pace a bit and this paid off when they took the lead in the 57th minute. A three man move cut open the Dorchester defence and Josh Payne bundled the ball in at the second attempt after the keeper saved his first effort. It was a fast-paced game and there was no let-up in the second half. Westlands were creating more chances and eventually reaped the dividend with the third goal in the 75th minute. A lovely pass split open the visitor's defence and Steve Ormrod raced

in and dinked a clever shot into the top corner. Both teams had chances after this but neither side could add to the score line.

“ISLANDERS WIN IMPRESSIVELY IN EAST DORSET”

PARLEY SPORTS 0 PORTLAND UTD RES 4

Portland United Reserves recorded their first away win of the season by taking 3 points from Parley Sports in The Dorset Premier League on Saturday. With just 11 minutes on the clock Portland took the lead as Sol Roche played in Billy Mitchell who fired the ball low in to the far corner of the net. The Blues then doubled their advantage as Sean Zima's ball in behind the defence found Rory Zima who beat the home keeper with a neat lob to extend the visitors advantage, HT 0-2. Just 12 minutes in to the second half Louis Hankins low cross across the box was converted by Billy Mitchell for his second of the game and his 6th of the season before Sol Roche got the reward for his efforts to kill any hopes the hosts had of a revival. With 20 minutes of the second half played Sol Roche closed the goalkeeper down, his clearance hit The Blues striker in the face. Roche regained his composure before sending the ball back in to the net. Looking back at the game Portland United Reserves manager Justin Faulkner commented "I think we were worth the win today, I can't remember our goalkeeper having to make too many crucial saves. Our defending was superb, Parley put a lot of balls in to the box, but our centre backs coped well with their aerial threat. Parley shaded the possession but the way we set up they struggled to really create anything of note in the final 3rd. I thought we could have kept the ball better, but we always looked a threat going forward, to get three points and a clean sheet is pleasing. Faulkner also added "It was our 1st away win of the season, that's another money off our back, coming in to this league it was a bit of going in to the unknown for some of these players, but they are proving themselves to be more than capable. To be 12 points above the bottom three which could potentially go down is a brilliant achievement for us, our targets don't change unless we are mathematically safe in this league and even then, we will be taking it one game at a time and trying to take maximum points from each game."

“STURMINSTER FEEL THE BLUS AS THE ROYALS WIN”

STURMINSTER NEWTON 0 BLANDFORD UTD 2

In a typical local derby where both sides demonstrated passion right from the off with challenges flying in from both sides, the hosts created very little in the way of clear-cut chances as both sides cancelled each other out in a frenetic 1st half, HT 0-0. Eventually the visitors edged ahead in the 2nd half when Mark Ford scored, and they went on to score a 2nd through Elliot Manson as they took full control of the game.

“BULLS EVENTUALLY SQUASH THE BEES”

HOLT UNITED 3 BRIDPORT RES 2

In a pulsating game at Petersham Lane, the hosts had to comeback from trailing at half time to eventually secure the 3 points against a determined Bridport side who were more than a match for their hosts for long periods of the game. The visitors lead at the break 2-1 with their goals coming from Josh Hunter and Robin Jones whilst scoring for the Bulls was Nathan Saxby. Holt stepped up a gear in the 2nd half and drew level through Dominic Falco and with time running out, Saxby got his 2nd and Holts 3rd to claim the win.