**GLAMORGAN HIT FOR SIX AFTER SUFFERING SURVIVAL HANGOVER**

**Sport:** Men’s football

**Reporter:** Dan Lewis

**Result:** Glamorgan 1st 0 – 6 Northumbria 1st

(Lencham 6; Davies 33; Riley 35; Clarke 56; Griffin 62; Byram 85)

**A WEEK on from their triumphant final day survival victory over Swansea, Glamorgan fell at the first hurdle in the BUCS MARS Championship – losing 6-0 to Northumbria.**

Despite coming into the match on a high following the 5-0 crushing of Swansea, Glam failed to get any sort of grip on the contest, with Northumbria cruising into the quarter-finals where they will face Northern Division champions – and cup favourites - Loughborough.

The mood was altogether different for a Northumbria side that had made the near 11 hour-round-journey from Newcastle, following the side’s relegation from their respective division in February. But coming into the game with just one loss in their last five, it was clear to see that the Newcastle based side were certainly no pushovers.

It was also clear to see from kick off that Northumbria intended to use this end of season cup competition to rectify what has been a largely poor season on the field, by making it as far as possible. With just six minutes on the clock, centre back Will Lencham fired the away side into the lead, and from this point on they didn’t look back.

Northumbria had a chance to extend their lead just minutes later with quick-fire chances – the first falling to goalscorer Lencham in the box, before Dan Riley saw his goal-bound effort saved low down by Daniel Bevan in goal, who was filling in for the rested Mike Lewis.

For a twenty minute spell after this early Northumbria pressure, the game was fairly even, with both sides creating opportunities. Northumbria will argue that they had the better of the chances however, with a free-kick on the edge of the box ruffling the top of the net, before Riley had a second chance to get his name on the score-sheet.

Then, with just over 30 minutes of the game played came a moment of magic to really liven up this game on a cold, damp, February afternoon at Glamorgan Sport Park. Midfielder Tom Davies spotted stand-in ‘keeper Bevan off his line, before lofting in a shot from just inside his own area which floated majestically over Bevan’s head into the Glam goal.

If this wasn’t bad enough for the Blue & Yellows, then things were about to get a lot worse. Riley made up for his earlier misses by scoring an overhead kick following a corner which hadn’t been dealt with. It was now 0-3 and the game was all-but-over before the interval.

Though to the credit of Glamorgan, they began to show some of the fighting spirit which was present just nine days prior in the victory against Swansea, creating a couple of half-chances of their own. First, the impressive Mamadou Diallo picked up a short corner, before cutting inside and firing towards goal. His effort made its way through a crowded box before coming back off the post and straight across the face of goal before being cleared, to the away side’s relief.

Winger Chris Miethke also tried to make something happen for the hosts, jinking his way into the penalty area, before winning his side a corner on the edge of half-time. Though the resulting corner was easily captured by Northumbria goalkeeper Niall Davidson and the referee signalled the end of a bad 45 for a make-shift Glamorgan side who were using this competition as a chance to give some of their fringe players a run-out.

The second-half started in a far more positive manner for Glam who at this stage were facing an early cup exit in the face, and it looked as though they had a lifeline when Davidson failed to handle a tame effort on goal and Miethke was left with a tap in. Davidson however managed to redeem himself, saving brilliantly to deny Glamorgan a way back into the game.

With that, Northumbria attacked up the other end and sealed the victory through Ben Clarke who had the simplest of tap-ins thanks to the work by teammate Ben Sears. Sears was played through on goal at a tight angle, though he kept his cool, before skilfully creating an opening for Clarke to give the away side a four goal margin.

Glam heads had now clearly dropped, and this was proved just five minutes later when wide midfielder Mike Byram brought down an over-hit cross inside the Glam area, before calmly laying off Liam Griffin who made no mistake in giving Northumbria a fifth goal of the afternoon.

Again, Glamorgan began to show a little glimpse of the spirit which saw them stay in the BUCS Southern Division, with Diallo the man to again step it up a gear, bursting towards the opposition area from the halfway line, though he found his options limited and ran into trouble.

Despite this rare opening, the hosts failed to build any real momentum to find a consolation goal, and to round off a day to forget, Byram found the back of the net with just a few minutes remaining to hit Glamorgan for six. Byram was played through on goal and had time to compose himself before slotting home to the joy of his manager, former Gateshead Town Coach, Terry Mitchell.

So there was to be no further joy for Glamorgan’s 1st team on what turned out to be their final game of the season, though it has not necessarily been a season to forget. They may have exited the Championship at the first hurdle and hung on to survive in the Southern Division by the skin of their teeth, but Steve Savage, Dave Gough and the rest of the backroom staff can be proud knowing that their side have managed to retain their league status against the odds – now to do it all over again next season.

ENDS.