**Sport: Men’s football**

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**Reporter: Dan Lewis**

**Glamorgan 1st 1 – 2 Chichester 1st – GLAMORGAN FALL TO LATE GOAL**

**A LATE Chichester goal was enough to see off a determined Glamorgan side, who failed to hold on after getting back into the game.**

Glamorgan will feel that they had done enough to take at least a point from the match after coming from behind to draw level and dominate for large parts of the second half, but Chichester showed the fighting spirit which has carried them to second place in the Premier Division to score a late winner.

Sam Goodge was the hero for the visitors with his late goal cancelling out Ulrich Fischer’s equaliser for Glam, but the winger would later turn villain after picking up a straight red card in the 90th minute for a bad challenge. Fischer’s goal managed to level the scores for a short while, after Ben Chick had put Chichester ahead late into the first half – a headed goal again proving to be the downfall for Glamorgan.

The game started in a positive fashion for Glamorgan, with striker Sam Bailey coming close after seven minutes with his effort from a tight angle being blocked and scrambled away. This was followed up just minutes later by Adrian Maguire’s snapshot from the edge of the box, which offered a warning to a Chichester side who are flying high after back-to-back promotions.

In what was a balanced first half contested on the Glamorgan Sport Park 3G pitch – allowing the game to go ahead despite the heavy downpour of rain throughout the day – Chichester finally managed to get a grip on proceedings, pushing Glam back before winning a corner via some nice interplay from their forwards.

The resulting corer was met by the head of Goodge who rose highest in a packed penalty area to fire past Mike Lewis in goal - it was the only real chance of the first half, but it was taken brilliantly by the number 11.

With the sides coming out for the second half, it was clear that the hosts were more fired up, this being highlighted by the brilliant link up play between the Glam attack and midfield. Bailey collected a nice flick-on and turned towards goal before releasing one of his team mates out wide, but the return ball to the striker was collected well by the Chichester ‘keeper down low to put an end to the promising attack.

Chick had a chance to double his sides lead on the hour mark with a nice bit of skill to bring the ball down, before firing his shot narrowly wide of goal to the relief of the on-looking Glam defence.

Though despite this half-chance, Glamorgan managed to create opportunities of their own, and on 65 minutes they earned a corner which the English side failed to deal with. After a brief goal-mouth scramble, Fischer managed to get his toe on the ball and fire Glamorgan level.

Glam then took control of the game for the next 15 minutes, but failed to carve out any real chances. In fact the best opportunity for a third goal in the match fell to Goodge – who had been swapped from the right wing to the left - having the ball at his feet in the opposition penalty area but failing to get a shot away at goal.

Glam failed to clear the lines and Chick again found himself in on goal, this time from a tight angle, but his effort was well saved by goalkeeper Lewis.

But in a final twist, Chichester would force a late corner which was swung in sweetly and met by Chick who seen his effort come off the underside of the bar and go in. The joy for the away side was clear to see, the dejection for Glamorgan even clearer.

The only sour point for visitors was the sending off of Goodge in the closing seconds for a reckless lunge, but they made the long journey back home three points better off.

Speaking after the match, a delighted Chichester coach said: “Today was a much closer game than last time we met Glamorgan. We got a couple of early goals and a couple of penalties in the opening game, which made us play a lot better.

“Today Glam looked much better, particularly in the second half where they came out more organised. They put pressure on us from set pieces with their big guys, but we finished with more tempo which allowed us to get the second goal.

“Glamorgan are a great footballing team, much better than most other sides we have played this season, but we managed to do enough and I’m delighted to take the three points.”

It was a harsh lesson for Glamorgan who came into the game on a high after winning their previous two matches, but the blue & yellows will look to bounce back as they attempt to reach their target of avoiding relegation.