**Men’s football match report: Glamorgan 1st 5 – 0 Swansea 1st**

*(Bailey 9, 47; Miethke 53; Diallo 55; Hudson 87)*

**Reporter: Dan Lewis**

**GLAMORGAN COME OUT ON TOP IN BATTLE TO AVOID RELEGATION**

**Glamorgan have retained their place in the Premier South division following an emphatic final day 5-0 victory over rivals Swansea - in a contest where the loser would be relegated.**

The match was expected to be a tight-fought encounter, with Glamorgan knowing that anything less than three points would see a season of ups and downs end with the university’s top side facing life in the second-tier next season.

Though an early goal from striker Sam Bailey quickly helped settle any nerves, before three goals inside the opening 10 minutes of the second half helped to seal Glam’s place in the division for another season.

In what had been a bad week for Swansea with a heavy defeat at home to league champions Hartpury, followed by a loss away at Bath last time out, the away side knew that a point would still be enough to secure their fate - keeping them in the division at Glamorgan’s expense.

Despite this, things couldn’t have started much worse for the visitor’s as Bailey found time to compose himself inside the box with just over three minutes played, and fire away an effort into the roof of the net to give Glamorgan a dream start.

The team spirit – which has been clear to see all season – was highlighted in the early celebrations, though Glam knew that a Swansea equaliser would change matters altogether.

Swansea didn’t let the early goal faze them, though their best chances came about through set-pieces – the best of which a corner which wasn’t dealt with, leading to Mike Lewis being called into action. The Glam number one got down low to stop a goal-bound effort with his feet, restricting Swansea to nothing more than half-chances.

As the clock ticked down a pattern began to emerge, with Glamorgan soaking up pressure before getting some shots from distance in on the away side’s goal. Luke Jones saw his effort tipped over by Swans ‘keeper Luke Martin, before Kevin Abojio’s curling effort was narrowly wide of goal.

The visitors didn’t manage to fully test Lewis in the Glam goal with a couple of well-positioned free-kicks on the edge of the area, and it almost proved costly as Chris Miethke superbly put Bailey through on goal, though the lone-strikers effort was well blocked by a covering Swans defender.

Bailey began drifting towards the wings as the match edged closer to half-time, and after bringing down a long ball from defence with a great first touch, his first time effort nearly took Martin by surprise in goal – though again Bailey’s effort was well blocked inside the area.

With the sides coming out for the second-half in front of a strong crowd at Glamorgan Sport Park, the hosts seemed fired up – this showed with three goals in quick-fire time to seal the fate of the down-and-out away side.

Bailey was played through two minutes into the half, before composing himself and brilliantly finishing to put his side 2-0 up – it was now a long way back for Swansea, though things were about to get worse.

Instead of sitting on their lead, Glamorgan took advantage of their opponent’s depleted spirits and continued to attack. This positive play paid off just four minutes later when Miethke capitalised on a mistimed header in the Swansea defence, before rounding the goalkeeper and extending his sides lead.

Then came the game’s best goal, with former Cardiff City prospect Mamadou Diallo pulling off a great piece of skill and finishing from a tight angle – it rounded off an eight minute spell which had provided Glamorgan with arguably their finest moment of the season.

Swansea tried their best to turn the match back into a contest, but the closest they came to pulling back a goal came after an hour as a miss-hit cross from wide looked to be dipping under Lewis’s crossbar, though the Glam ‘keeper managed to handle the ‘shot-cross’ well.

Despite this minor scare, the home side continued to assert their dominance on the game, which was highlighted by Jake Hayward whose snapshot following a blocked free-kick was inches wide of goal.

It was now a case of being professional and seeing out the game for Glamorgan, though Adrian Maguire had other ideas – on the end of a fine piece of team play, Maguire unleashed an effort from the edge of the box which rattled the crossbar.

Despite this, Glamorgan did eventually get a fifth and final goal after Miethke found himself through on goal after some more fantastic team play, with the referee awarding the Blue and Yellows a penalty, before dismissing the guilty party to leave Swansea with 10 men for the remaining five minutes.

The penalty was left to another former Cardiff City prospect, Dean Hudson, to take, with the Welsh youngster making no mistake of getting his side’s fifth goal of the night.

With that, the referee signalled the end of the match, and the end of the league season for both teams. It could have all ended so differently, but a brilliant team performance at just the right time was enough to see Glamorgan keep their place in the Premier Division, but for Swansea, they now face life outside of the top tier.

ENDS.