



CHARTER STANDARD CLUB

Flore Park Rovers – Match Report



20.09.2020 Flore Park Rovers 2 Kingsthorpe Jets Typhoons 0
(Riley, Adam R.)

FPR kicked off their under 18's campaign with a well-deserved and well executed victory in glorious late summer sunshine at The Lodge. Goals from Riley late in the first half and Adam in the second ensured FPR came away with all three points, however, the commitment, enthusiasm and belief were the foundations upon which this victory was built.

After a long six months without competitive football it was excellent to see all the lads contribute effectively, showing their generally older opponents, the benefits of a crisp passing game and the ability to remain calm on the ball.

New signing Lucas produced a stunning performance in goal, keeping a clean sheet with two fabulous saves and undertaking all the basic goalkeeping tasks with minimal fuss and "shedloads" of confidence.

Defensively, Thomas and Alan were very assured, while Elliot, Lewis and Finn all provided a threat going forward as well as fulfilling their stock duties. In midfield ET produced an exceptional performance in the holding role (a new challenge for him), out-muscling physically stronger opponents before delivering concise and accurate passes. Charlie and Caleb continued from where they left off last season, working tirelessly and adding quality throughout.

Adam and James were excellent in the wider roles, both giving their respective defenders a torrid time. In attack Riley ran his socks off; continually seeking to make things awkward for his opponents and providing a real threat with his lightening quick runs.

Souts, Will and Mogs were all out due to injury, while new signing Sam was unavailable (his debut for the Pirates will come).

FPR started impressively, pinning the Jets back into their own half from the first whistle. FPR built patiently and sought to maintain possession. On 8 minutes Caleb latched onto Lewis cross from the left, however, his shot went over the crossbar.

The Jets did create a chance on the break 14 minutes in; the striker bore down on goal however Lucas stayed big and blocked the effort convincingly.

The FPR response to this threat was immediate, ET, Caleb, Charlie and James combining before the latter sent in a low cross, Adam stole in front of the static defender but saw his flicked effort hit the base of the post.

Despite their domination FPR were again grateful to Lucas who again produced a fine save on 37 minutes when the Jets managed to create another one on one opportunity; once again the keeper showing great concentration and determination.

On 39 minutes Riley showed blistering pace down the left, however his cross just evaded the on-rushing ET.

The deserved breakthrough did arrive 2 minutes before the interval after a superb joint press from George and Charlie resulted in the ball breaking free to Adam who lobbed a pass over the top for Riley to run on to, the defenders were found wanting as the striker picked up the ball rounded the keeper and coolly slotted it into the back of the net.

FPR started the second half in the same fashion, winning all the loose balls and aiming to get on the front foot to increase their advantage. Caleb saw a first time shot from 20 yards comfortably saved, while Riley caused further defensive mayhem, but saw his chipped effort going narrowly wide.

Adam then went desperately close as he drove down the right flank before hitting a low drive beyond the keeper it into the side-netting.

With FPR leading by just the solitary goal there was the prospect of a nervy final ten minutes, fortunately any nerves were alleviated on 82 minutes when Caleb won the ball in the middle of the Jets half and managed to thread a pass through a cluster of opponents to Adam who calmly placed the ball beyond the keeper from 15 yards out.

FPR nearly added a cherry to icing on the cake with a fine move down the left in the closing stages; Lewis and James initially combined before playing the ball into Adam who unselfishly passed to George who saw his shot just clear the crossbar. Moments later the referee drew the match to a close and FPR were able celebrate a terrific start to the season.

FPR got the rewards that their endeavours deserved and have set the standard that will need to be maintained if they are to mount a challenge for honours this season. An excellent performance from the lads!