



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 to 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!



Flore Park Rovers – Match Report



27/09/2020

West Haddon Albion

0

Flore Park Rovers

5

(Morgan, Caleb, Riley, Adam R. (2))

FPR produced another fine display to maintain their 100% start to the new season, scoring five excellent goals and keeping a second consecutive clean sheet in the process.

There appeared to be some nerves from both sides initially as they struggled to keep the ball on the deck in the blustery conditions. Fortunately, FPR adapted to the conditions more expediently than their opponents and found themselves in front on 12 minutes through Morgan's crisp strike following a sumptuous move.

Elliott picked the ball up on halfway and played a neat pass infield to Alan who in turn found Riley who clipped the ball into Adam's path on the right, the winger instinctively curled a beautiful pass into Morgan who emphatically finished first time. Had Liverpool or City scored a similar goal the pundits would have been purring.

8 minutes later FPR doubled their lead in almost similar circumstances, once again Adam played in a great cross from the right for Morgan, however, this time a defender managed to intercept the ball but his clearance fell to Caleb on the edge of the penalty area, the skipper firing a first time effort into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

Haddon responded positively but found the FPR rear-guard in resolute mood; Thomas heading a dangerous looking free kick away to ensure the advantage was maintained.

Debutant Sam came very close to opening his FPR goalscoring account with his first touch on 33 minutes. James went on a buccaneering run down the left flank before feeding the ball to the over-lapping Finn whose low cross picked out Sam, the striker shooting just wide on the turn.

Thomas saw a free kick from some 25 yards comfortably saved before FPR survived a scare just prior to the break. A free kick on the right was headed goalward, however, Lucas was up to the challenge and made a fine stop just on the goal line.

In truth FPR has allowed their opponents a foothold in the game just prior to the break, however, after the interval they effectively extinguished any hope that Haddon had of getting back in the match with another fine goal on 50 minutes.

The impressive ET once again picked up a loose ball, controlled it well and then played an exquisite ball through to Riley who took two touches before firing passed the on-rushing goalkeeper.

FPR dominated proceedings for the remaining 40 minutes, controlling play at the back and in midfield and always looking threatening in attack.

In the 59th minute Sam forced the keeper into a fine save. Lucas's huge clearance cause havoc in the Haddon defence allowing Riley to steal in and find his strike partner. Sam's low, goal bound effort, clawed away by the keeper at full stretch.

Two minutes later FPR had their fourth goal when Morgan's perfect corner was met by the on-rushing Adam who applied a neat right footed flicked finish beyond the helpless keeper.

Sam went close again in the 75th and 76th minute, his first effort going just over the crossbar after Adam had curled the ball to him, and his second shot being well saved - this time Morgan providing the assist with a lovely flick.

On 79 minutes exceptional football from Lewis, Morgan and Caleb resulted in the latter skipping passed a defender down the left flank before playing a terrific ball across the face of goal for Adam to smash home from 6 yards out. Once again, pundits would have been drooling over the goal.

FPR saw the game out without any significant problems ensuring that the positive start to the season was enhanced.

Once again, all the lads contributed. Lucas was superb, all the defenders really well organised and committed, while the midfield worked industriously to snuff out any danger and put FPR on the front-foot (Charlie, George and ET completing a lot of the hard yards!). In attack it was great to see the lively Morgan back, Riley picked up from where he left last week with another fine showing, while Sam showed real promise on his first FPR outing.

While we cannot afford to get ahead of ourselves the performances, we have seen so far this season put the team in good stead and will certainly have future opponents worried. An excellent performance.



Flore Park Rovers – Match Report



04/10/2020 Wootton St George 5 Flore Park Rovers 2
(Adam R., Ethan)

FPR slipped to their first defeat of the season following a slightly below par performance away at Wootton St George. A failure to monitor and manage WSG's key player contributed significantly to the defeat, indeed his hat-trick was the difference between the two sides.

FPR started sluggishly and found themselves on the back foot. Lucas comfortably saving an early free kick from a dangerous position. On 12 minutes Lucas could do nothing as WSG's hat trick hero opened the scoring with a fine low and accurate drive from 20 yards out. FPR were guilty of allowing the player too much time and space in the build up to his strike.

FPR responded well and started to get a foothold in the game, even if their usual passing game was not to the fore. On 22 minutes Caleb saw a free kick from distance go narrowly over the top, however, a minute later and parity was restored as FPR's man of the match

ET found some space in the middle of the pitch before picking out Adam with a perfectly weighted and placed pass. Adam cut inside two men before steadying himself and firing a fierce shot into the top right-hand corner.

There was a healthy ebb and flow to the match, however, WSG showed a more clinical approach. On 32 minutes the winger found space on the left and was able to play in a cross that was headed home by the striker.

6 minutes later and FPR were found themselves further behind. From an FPR throw in WSG stole the ball with a player burst got forward through a rather porous defence before squaring to a teammate who finished with ease.

FPR's woes continued early in the second half as the midfielder scored another fine goal as once again, he found space drove forward and fired a low shot beyond a helpless Lucas. His hat-trick came in the 59th minute when he again drove forward and smashed an unstoppable effort into the top right-hand corner.

FPR did endeavour to get back into the game and did have a considerable amount of possession in the last quarter of the match. Sam saw a shot go narrowly wide before ET scored a superb goal; instinctively firing home from distance when the ball was partially cleared to him.

With key injuries to Riley, Morgan and Souts, and with Thomas having to withdraw at half time, it was always going to be a tough afternoon for FPR. It is fair to say that they never really reached their usual high standards; failure to do so in this league is likely to be punished.

Unfortunately, for FPR their next test is against the highly fancied Brixworth Panthers so they have to prepare for another significant challenge this weekend. However, one thing we know about FPR is they are resolute and always seek to respond positively.



Flore Park Rovers – Match Report



11/10/20 Brixworth Panthers 2 Flore Park Rovers 0

FPR produced a much-improved performance despite slipping to second consecutive defeat against title-fancied Brixworth Panthers in bright autumnal sunshine at St David's Park.

It should be noted that the Panthers coach acknowledged that this was the toughest test his team had faced in their four outings so far this season, and this with the team coming with a growing injury list. With Lucas added to Souts, Will and Mogs on the sidelines due to injury FPR had to reshuffle with Caleb going in goal and the remaining outfield players knowing that they would have to endure a long shift.

FPR set up with a 4-2-3-1 line up - George and ET charged with completing the ugly work and preventing the Panthers creating anything in a cramped midfield. Charlie, Adam, James and Sam undertook the industrious up and down midfield roles, supporting Riley whenever possible, but always maintaining a strong defensive focus.

In attack Riley worked tirelessly while in defence Thomas, Alan, Elliott, Lewis and a Finn showed great levels of concentration.

With the exception of two occasions FPR managed to reduce the Panthers to long passes into space, that were generally shielded out or into Caleb, and set pieces. The first lapse was in the very first minute when the Panthers launched an attack down the left, Caleb saving well being his feet. This initial scare seemed to kickstart FPR and from that point there was always a degree of control. The work ethic of all the boys was clear to see.

FPR started to grow into the game with Charlie leading a number of forays forward and looking to support Riley who clearly caused concern in the Panthers defence with his pace.

On 16 minutes Sam and Lewis combined effectively down the left, the former playing the ball to the by-line where the overlapping defender wrapped his foot around the ball producing a cross that was headed goalward by Adam, the keeper making a comfortable save.

At the other end Caleb partied away a free kick to ensure parity remained.

Midway through the half FPR produced some excellent football and forced a fine save from the Panthers keeper. Riley and Charlie combined well, the latter finding a pocket of space before slipping the ball into the path of Adam in the right, the winger producing a fierce shot that the keeper tipped onto the post.

From the resultant corner the ball fell to Sam in the edge of the penalty area, however, his first-time effort went wide to the left.

The Panthers eventually took the lead in the 41st minute with a well struck free kick that went in off the crossbar.

FPR were then awarded a free kick of their own, however, Adam's effort went narrowly over the crossbar.

After the break FPR continued to press forward whenever possible. A second Adam free kick being blocked by the wall. It was apparent that the Panthers knew that when Riley or Charlie were bursting towards goal allowing a free kick some distance out was a risk worth taking.

Great work from George in the heart of midfield resulted in him creating space for Riley down the left channel, the striker slipped the ball to Charlie who saw his shot deflected into Adam's path, unfortunately he couldn't get any power behind his shot.

Despite their efforts to get back on terms FPR found themselves further behind on 77 minutes when only the second defence lapse of the game was punished. Two missed headers enabled the striker to bear down on goal, as Caleb came out, he squared the ball to his on-rushing teammate who tapped home.

FPR still went in search of a goal and came close when Riley's fine pass split the defence and found Lewis, the defender seeing his shot hit the side netting.

Unfortunately, FPR could not breach the Panthers defence and had to accept another reverse, however, they can take great pride in a superb effort - the positives from this match must be taken forward in what will be a challenging season.