



CHARTER STANDARD CLUB

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 wellbeing 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 parted 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.