**Glamorgan Women’s 1st 3 – 2 UWE Women’s 1st**

**Reporter: Dan Lewis**

**Glamorgan extended their lead at the top of the BUCS Western Division - edging out close rivals University of the West of England (UWE) 3-2 in a close-fought encounter.**

A brace from Sian Jones seen Glam race into a 2-0 lead with less than 30 minutes played, but UWE grew into the game, pulling it back to 2-2 before coming agonisingly close to finding a winner.

But it was to be Glamorgan’s day as Lucy Edwards found a third and decisive goal with 15 minutes remaining to extend her sides lead at the top of the table, at the expense of the downbeat visitors.

Coming into the game unbeaten so far this season, the hosts knew they would be facing an all-round tougher test against a UWE side who sit second in the table.

Though it looked a case of being the same old story after Jones got Glam onto the score-sheet after just 15 minutes with an absolute screamer 25 yards from goal.

With no UWE players closing her down, Jones unleashed a curling effort which left away goalkeeper Nat DeMerit with no chance of stopping.

The home side didn’t look back, with Jones doubling her goal tally for the day with an altogether different type of goal – a well worked cross from out wide by Sian Scannell which was headed past DeMerit with a glancing header from Jones.

Jones was already searching for her hattrick with just 25 minutes on the clock, but she turned provider – after working some space out wide, her whipped ball was screaming to be converted, but there was no Glam player on the end of it.

It proved to be the moment that changed the tide of the match, with UWE now waking up and creating chances of their own.

The first of these opportunities on goal came from Ellie Isaac, who through frustration had her side’s first real attempt on goal after 30 minutes of play.

The shot was pushed behind by Amanda Hubbard, with the resulting corner being dealt with well.

Though just five minutes later, UWE won another corner which this time was met by the boot of Harriet Scott on the volley – the tame side-footed effort drifting wide of the Glam goal.

The pressure continued to build on the home side however, which began to show with the visitors winning a couple of free-kicks on the edge of the opposition area.

The first effort was easily captured by Hubbard in goal, though the second attempt by Scott was agonisingly close to drifting in - but in the end the heavy winds helped take the ball over the crossbar to the relief of Glamorgan.

Despite this constant pressure, the Glam women’s 1st team showed why it is they are so feared this season, attacking well on the break and creating a great chance for Jones who dragged her shot wide.

UWE didn’t let this affect their state of mind however, as just two minutes later Isaac was taken down in the area by Hubbard, resulting in a penalty being awarded.

Scott stepped up to take the pen, calmly slotting it past Glamorgan’s ‘keeper – it was the lifeline that the Bristol based side needed to get back into the game.

From the resulting kick-off however, Glam had a chance to extend their lead right on the brink of half-time – finding themselves in a one-on-one situation which was well cut-out by DeMerit.

The final action of the opening 45 minutes seen Jones pull off a great piece of skill out wide, but her cross right across the face of goal had no one on the end of it again.

Coming into the second-half, the match was well balanced, with UWE arguably creating the better chances, and they got their reward just five minutes in as Isaac finished off a brilliant team goal to make it level at 2-2.

Isaac found space unmarked on the edge of the 18-yard-box and made no mistake in placing it superbly past Hubbard.

West of England midfielder Scott was growing more and more into the game, and she came closest to completing the unlikely turnaround on the hour mark.

Some great individual play by Isaac created room for Scott to get an effort in on goal, but she seen her strike well blocked by Nicole Rawlins in the Glam defence.

It would be unfair however to say that Glam were holding on for the point, as the league leaders continued to play some nice football across the pitch.

This attacking threat was highlighted on the 75 minute mark when Edwards found herself through on goal, before slotting her effort calmly past DeMerit and into the back of the net.

With the aid of the post, Glamorgan now found themselves 3-2 up – but again UWE attacked with menace.

Isaac – who seemed to be creating all of the away sides’ chances – found Scott inside the Glam penalty box, but her tame effort was edged wide.

The same combination of players linked up again just a minute later, with Scott being picked out for a free header just five yards from goal, but her attempt was again narrowly wide.

The final chance of the thrilling encounter came with just seconds remaining as Scannell capitalised on some uncharacteristic sloppy defending from UWE - but her resulting shot was well saved.

With that the referee signalled the end of the match, with Glamorgan holding on to their one goal advantage.

It means that with over half the season played, Glam now stand clear at the top of the Western Conference, though UWE certainly offered the toughest contest of the season so far.

Speaking after the match, Coach Sarah Adams highlighted the importance of picking up the victory.

She said: “It’s brilliant to pick up all three points. We were happy with one point, but I’m delighted to take all three.

“We should go on and win the league now - we’re halfway through and have built ourselves a lead.

“Today was the toughest challenge so far, but we done well.”