Men’s Football match report: Liverpool Hope University 3rd 1-1 University of Central Lancashire 5th

Hope managed to gain a very respectable 1-1 draw with University of Central Lancashire. The form of Hope’s opponents, winning their last six games, including winning the last two games 5-0, compares to Hope’s form, who won three and lost three. The tactical shape of Hope, going with a 3-5-2 formation, had the intention of controlling the middle of the field with the wing-backs playing up high.

Unfortunately, the visitors started on the front foot passing the ball around with confidence but without penetrating Hope’s penalty area. However, Stephen Eatwell proved to be on top form again saving brilliantly at point blank range! In fact, Hope grew into the game when pressing high, lead by the front two strikers. Against the run of play, UCLAN took the lead through a set piece - the ball was whipped in and their captain planted the ball in the back of the net with a header.

Hope did not let this diminish their belief going into the second half and they produced a reaction, playing further up the pitch, starting to win all the second balls. Stephen’s save from a dubious penalty proved crucial and saving the rebound just as impressive. Hope were threatening all second half. Going close when Ewan “Stan” Stannard hit the post from a tight angle, as well as a disallowed offside goal, showed the dominance Hope were enjoying. The deserved equaliser arrived after Ben Pearson hit an unstoppable pile driver past the goalkeeper. From this point forward the game was end to end, with both teams creating half chances to win the game, however, Hope had to settle for a point. Overall, a good result, halting UCLAN’s winning streak and breathing confidence going into future games.