Men’s Football Liverpool Hope University 2nd 7-0 Wrexham Glyndwr University 1st

Hope Men’s Football 2nd rounded off an incredible season by finishing champions of Northern 5C with a dominant victory of Wrexham Glyndwr University. The result never looked in doubt from the first whistle as they established the qualities that gained them a league title and promotion.

Hope, starting with a 3-5-2 formation, used the wingbacks effectively, linking up with the two strikers Niall Thomas and Joe Webber. It’s a system that coach Ryan Gormley admitted is a system he has always used. This is due to it allowing “the strikers to run in behind while holding stability in defence, allowing the wing backs to get on the ball and allows us to tuck in to defend with the 3-5-2 shape”, Ryan said, proving the perfect system. The game started very open with chances at both ends and both keepers being tested. However, the pace of Joe Webber was causing all sorts of problems for Glyndwr’s backline and it was rewarded when he received the ball for a one-on-one chance and buried into the back of the net. An intense period followed in the midfield area as Hope dropped off after the first goal but responded by creating more chances for Niall and Joe. Sean Ward’s set piece deliveries were threatening and just before half time the ball was pinballed around the area before Niall hammered home his first goal off the post.

If the first half was a contest, then Hope embraced their class on the game in the second half when they took the game away from Glyndwr. Firstly, another set piece headed in by Hope’s centre back put the game beyond the opposition. The free kicks continued to torment Glyndwr but it seemed the referee let them off by giving offside when Joe thought he got his second of the game. No matter, as Niall got his brace when, once again using his pace to outsmart the Glyndwr defence, simply finished past the keeper for a four-goal lead. Niall was clearly happy with the performance saying his brace “was the perfect way to finish the season”. At this point, Hope projected confidence passing with a crispness that threatened to slice open Glyndwr at any time. Joe Webber got the hat trick his performance deserved, beating the Glyndwr goalkeeper to the ball before smashing the ball in the back of the net for his third and Hope’s sixth. To conclude the scoring was Carter Livingstone, who went through one-on-one and finished with ease to confirm Hope’s seven-goal victory. Ryan saw the result as a fantastic result against a good side and was rewarded for all the hard work the players put into training.

Ryan

Reflecting on the season, Ryan described it as a fantastic season off the pitch saying, “They are a great bunch of lads who have worked hard all season. Earning good results as well as responding to bad results is testament to the lads for winning the league”. The bigger picture is that this team can get even better, ready for next season in the 5th Tier of the BUCS Football pyramid.