

Wotton-u-Edge B 0 – 0 Ross

11/11/2006

Ross see red as refs give yellow

Ross Mens 1st XI continued their improved form in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two with a determined defensive performance away to top three team Wotton-under-Edge B. With captain Andy Ridgway again putting in another fine display between the Ross posts – at least while he stayed on the pitch – behind the outstanding defensive trio of Tim Jones, Edward Peck and Greg Weston, Ross achieved a very creditable 0-0 result. However, this was anything but a bore-draw.

The seeds of an explosive second half were already germinating in a lively first period. As Wotton's frustration at their failure to turn their domination of possession into goals started to show, Ross responded with some robust tackling, stoutly defending from midfield through James Adamson, Andy Cross, Sam Warner, Adrian Williams, Tom Walton and Steve Evans. Increasingly, the umpires lost sympathy with this rather muscular approach, awarding the entire Ross team a green card (which is a final warning that any further perceived indiscretion will be punished by a yellow card and the player spending time on the side lines). Both Adamson and a Wotton player sustained injuries from balls travelling well off the ground; the former later limped back on but the latter had to be taken to hospital.

The second half started much like the first; almost constant Wotton possession creating few chances for them to score. At the other end, Richard Harbottle and Willem Haagen started to see cracks appearing and the possibility of Ross sneaking a victory became thinkable. In his desperation to pick up on a loose ball in the box, a Wotton forward went flailing into a prone Ridgway, eliciting a predictably forthright response from the Ross captain. Too forthright for the umpires, who promptly sent him off; Evans then put on the keeper's kit. Minutes after, Adamson was judged to have kicked the ball deliberately – the umpires demonstrating little appreciation of the limits of his physical dexterity – and he joined Ridgway off the pitch. As the temperature rose, Williams was lucky to stay on when he shared his opinion of one of the umpires as he thought a blatant piece of footwork by a Wotton player was overlooked. Through all this mayhem, Jones, Peck and Weston kept their cool, keeping both their tempers and the Wotton forwards under close control.

Sides in these reduced circumstances often find new resolve. Such was the case here. Williams had a goal disallowed as the whistle went for an earlier Wotton offence just as he shaped up to strike the ball home. Warner made a number of searching runs into the Wotton 'D'. One led to a fine save by the opposition goalkeeper, the other resulted in the Wotton captain being dismissed for a crude body-check. At the end, Ross celebrated as if they had won which, in a sense, they had.

11-Nov-06	Cheltenham D	2	Glos City D	3
11-Nov-06	Cirencester B	0	Sherborne	8
11-Nov-06	Hereford C	0	Cheltenham C	12
11-Nov-06	Lansdown C	7	Cirencester C	2
11-Nov-06	Winchcombe	1	Newent B	4
11-Nov-06	Wotton-u-Edge B	0	Ross on Wye	0

Hereford & Glos 2	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agn	Diff	Pts
Sherborne	8	7	0	1	52	7	45	21
Cheltenham C	8	7	0	1	45	7	38	21
Wotton-u-Edge B	8	5	3	0	38	9	29	18
Lansdown C	8	5	1	2	41	28	13	16
Winchcombe	8	4	2	2	22	22	0	14
Newent B	8	4	1	3	14	19	-5	13
Ross on Wye	8	3	2	3	20	17	3	11
Glos City D	8	3	0	5	16	32	-16	9
Hereford C	8	2	1	5	9	50	-41	7
Cheltenham D	8	1	2	5	21	27	-6	5
Cirencester B	8	0	2	6	14	36	-22	2
Cirencester C	8	0	0	8	6	44	-38	0