

ROSS 2 – 2 LANSDOWN C

24/3/2007

Ross' season draws to a close

Ross Men's 1st XI played their final game of the season in the Gerrard Hereford and Gloucester League Division Two last Saturday. With visitors Lansdown C sitting comfortably in third, three places above their hosts, Ross might have approached this fixture with some trepidation. As it transpired, Ross were the better team for much of the game; however, they were afflicted once again with their regular problem - a failure to score goals. In the end, Ross had to settle for a draw, their sixth of the season, when the quality and quantity of their possession merited a victory.

Without regulars such as Harbottle, Clare and Jennison, Ross nonetheless took the game to their opponents, defending well, controlling midfield and producing some elegant approach play. It was in the 'D' where Ross struggled to make their superiority count. On one almost comical occasion – which produced a miss of Adamson-like dimensions - Adrian Williams and Steve Evans impeded each other as both attempted to push the ball into an empty net from three feet out after Phil Evans had beaten the Lansdown goalkeeper. Steve Evans later made amends by scoring the opening goal. Despite mostly looking comfortable, the Ross defence of James Adamson, Edward Peck, Tim Jones and Greg Weston did not deal very effectively with a run across their 'D' from a Lansdown forward who then slotted the ball past Andy Ridgway for an equaliser.

The second half saw the midfield dominance of Tom Walton, Sam Warner, Andy Evans, Kristian Franklin and, in particular, Steve Evans – who made some very effective sprints down the right wing - produce a succession of chances from which Wilem Haagen, Williams and Phil Evans repeatedly went close. It was left to Neil Bowen, making his first appearance of the season, to put Ross back ahead. Shortly after, Peck was unable to deal with a Lansdown attack without being adjudged to have conceded a short corner from which the visitors drew level for a second time. By this stage, the Lansdown frustration at being largely outplayed was being vented upon the umpires – Andy Cross and John Setchfield – and when one of their young whippersnappers volunteered to show the former the rule book he was understandably sent off for dissent.

So Ross ended the season in sixth place, two places lower than last year. There have been some very positive aspects: the establishment of Steve Evans and Kristian Franklin as first team regulars; the maturing of Tom Walton and Sam Warner into players that could immediately command a place in any side in the division; and the transformation of Andy Ridgway from outstanding centre-forward to outstanding goalkeeper behind a defence that has one of the best 'goals against' tallies in the league. However, Ross need to give some serious thought to their attack if they are to challenge for promotion next year.

Hereford & Glos 2			
24-Mar-07	Cirencester C	2 Cheltenham C	10
24-Mar-07	Newent B	10 Hereford C	2
10-Feb-07	Ross on Wye	2 Lansdown C	2
24-Mar-07	Sherborne	5 Winchcombe	2
19-Mar-07	Newent B	0 Winchcombe	1

Hereford & Glos 2	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals F	Goals A	A_Win	A_Draw	A_Lose	A_For	A_Agai	subtract	Goal Di	Points
Sherborne	22	10	0	1	70	13	11	0	0	74	9	0	122	63
Cheltenham C	22	9	1	1	53	12	8	1	2	58	16	0	83	53
Lansdown C	22	7	1	3	49	41	7	1	3	35	26	0	17	44
Wotton-u-Edge B	21	9	1	1	52	16	4	3	3	28	23	0	41	43
Winchcombe	22	5	1	5	34	31	6	1	4	32	31	0	4	35
Ross on Wye	22	6	3	2	34	20	2	3	6	24	21	3	17	27
Glos City D	22	4	1	6	20	41	4	1	6	27	39	0	-33	26
Cheltenham D	21	3	1	6	30	30	4	1	6	24	42	0	-18	23
Newent B	22	3	1	7	22	34	4	1	6	20	32	0	-24	23
Cirencester B	22	4	1	6	23	34	2	1	8	16	41	0	-36	20
Hereford C	22	2	2	7	10	45	1	0	10	9	73	0	-99	11
Cirencester C	22	3	0	8	15	38	0	0	11	8	59	0	-74	9