



MacWhirter Welsh League Division 1

Cwmbrân Stadium

CWMBRÂN TOWN

4

Ngody (4, 36), Molongo (9), Omuta (90+4)

CROESYCEILIOG

4

Jones (2, 17, 68), Jenkins (18)

Both rival clubs went all-out to win the bragging rights in Torfaen in this highly competitive and entertaining match. Croesyceiliog took the lead early on, then lost it, regained it, and lost again, all before half time. Then with a famous win on the cards, up popped Christopher Omuta to claim a draw.

No sooner had the game kicked off, Croesy were 1-0 up. A great long through ball to striker Mark Jones set him free of the Cwmbrân defence, and he fired expertly passed Williams in the home goal.

Despite this early shock, the Crows hit back within two minutes. A free kick was awarded on the left-hand edge of the Croesy box, and midfield maestro Jean Black Ngody stepped up to curl a superlative shot into the net off the inside of the post. Cwmbrân then found themselves on a roll and 2-1 up before the ten minute mark, when Moses Molongo notched up his second goal of the season after some neat approach play.

There was to be no rest though as Croesyceiliog hit back, punishing some slack defending at set pieces. Mark Jones made it 2-2 from a corner, and former player Jodi Jenkins came back to haunt the Crows a minute later to put the Cockerels 3-2 up with less than 20 minutes on the clock.

However, Croesy's lead lasted less than 20 minutes, when another free kick conceded on the left-hand side gave Ngody another chance to show his talent. Despite being a little further out than his first one, Ngody struck a sweet shot that appeared to be going over but dipped in time to go in off Bailey's left-hand angle of post and crossbar. A breath taking first half finished 3-3.

Perhaps understandably, the second half didn't compare to the first in terms of goals, but there was still plenty of action...and some controversy.

None more so than when referee Geoff Martin produced a red card for an apparent infringement by a Croesy player that left Leonardo Martins clutching his face. However, after brandishing the red card, the referee consulted his lineman, and then allowed the game to continue with both sides having the full compliment of players on the pitch!

Despite dominating proceedings against a tiring but valiant Croesy side, the Crows were unable to make their pressure count. Ngody was denied a hat-trick when his sublime overhead kick was tipped over the bar by the recovering Bailey. Next to try his luck was Ricky Hodge, but his 25-yard drive was headed off the line with the keeper in no-man's land.



Then the unthinkable happened as Croesy found themselves 4-3 up, against the run of play, after another set piece. A free kick was swung in from the right, and with the Crows defence unable to clear their lines, Jones completed his hat-trick stabbing in from close range, thus sending the visiting fans wild with celebration.

The Crows continued to press, and substitute Shadrach (on for Houston) gave the attack fresh legs and fresh impetus. With the minutes ticking away, it looked like Croesyceiliog would take all 3 points home with them.

Then, deep into injury time, the Crows attacked down the left. A low cross was controlled by Molongo, who turned and laid on a perfect ball in front of the oncoming Omuta who slotted coolly passed a stranded Bailey – the home crowd were both overjoyed and relieved in equal measure!

With a healthy crowd and plenty of entertaining football on show, this really was a great advert for Welsh League football.

Team Line-ups & Match Statistics		
Managed by: Guillermo Ganet		Managed by: Chris Evans & Neil Gilmore
		
Cwmbrân Town		Croesyceiliog
G.Williams	1	J.Bailey
M.McGibbon	2	M.Morris
S.Oyinloye	3	Jamie Jenkins
T.Koffi	4	R.Bristow
A.Alimbalu	5	M Dewer 
R.Hodge	6	M.Pattimore 
  C.Omuta	7	K.Hicks
  J.B.Ngody	8	M.Alcock
 M.E.Molongo	9	Jodi Jenkins 
L.M.Ferreira	10	M.Jones    
M.Houston	11	D.Clouth
Subs		
L.Mojeed > McGibbon		D.Clare
P.Pardeal > Ferreira		C.Evans > Pattimore
A.M.Shadrach > Houston		C.Mills > Hicks
C.Smith		C.Watkins > Jones
R.Jeffries		P.O'Hagan
Referee: G Martin		Attendance: 185