

Match Report

Date

30/10/05	U15 White	1	V	1	Barnston
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Simply outstanding

This was an outstanding performance from the 11 Forest Glade players who were the only available players on the day. Many were asked to play out of position but all were asked to play to their utmost potential.

With the wind and the slope in their favour in the first half it was an outstanding first 40 minutes. Forest were easily the smaller physically but the desire to play football was immediately evident and Forest straight away passed the ball quickly and decisively around the Barnston team.

A great passing move down the right saw Matt Huckle get to the byeline and cross superbly with pace. Dan Barker attacked the ball in the centre of the goal but just failed to make contact and the ball went agonisingly across the goal.

Dan Baker was having a superb game, holding the ball up well and battling hard for the ball. His lay-offs and turns meant that he managed to break the Barnston offside trap but unfortunately he lacked the pace to capitalise on these.

In defence the centre back partnership of Greg Fedden and Tom Pearson were nullifying the Barnston attack. Stuart Thorn continues to look an outstanding prospect at left back, and again put in a wonderful performance.

Whilst Forest dominated the play they were unable to create any meaningful shots for the Barnston keeper to save, whilst Elliott Thwaites, in the Forest goal, just acted as a sweeper.

Right at the end of the first half the Barnston keeper erred when he over stepped his goal area as he went to punt the ball clear. The Referee awarded a freekick to Forest for handball right on the edge of the Barnston goal area. Tom Pearson struck the ball powerfully into the top right of the Barnston goal for the breakthrough that Forest's play had deserved.

The second half started with Forest continuing to attempt to play a passing football game but the exertions of the first half were beginning to affect a couple of the Forest players and Barnston began to dominate the possession. For all of Barnston's possession they were restricted to long distance efforts which either went tamely through to Elliott or missed the target completely.

Forest's best play in this half was centred on the right side of the pitch where Alex Chapman, Chris Baker and Dan Barker battled against the strength of the Barnston left. It was an end-to-end battle with Chris Baker, given his lack of stature, having an outstanding performance.

The luck however wasn't with Forest as with 15 minutes to go the ball fell to a Barnston defender just inside the Forest half. He smashed the ball hopefully forward and the ball went high into the air and caught the strong wind. As Elliott backtracked towards his goal line the ball kept on coming and came down at such an acute angle that it beat the Forest keeper at his top right-hand corner of the goal.

The Forest heads momentarily dropped but they lifted as they were quickly onto the attack. Matt Huckle battled hard at the halfway line and managed to knick the ball away from the Barnston defence. As he ran towards goal he just couldn't break away from the chasing defender who put in a great tackle to clear the ball.

With just a few minutes to go a Forest corner from Tom Pearson went right across the six yard box. It struck a Barnston defender and bounced up for Greg Fedden to volley the ball goal wards. Again the luck was against Forest as it hit a defender on the goal line. The ball pinballed around but was finally cleared by Barnston.

The final whistle went soon after and both teams appeared happy with the result.

A draw was perhaps a fair result but the Forest players today should take a lot of credit from their performance and it was great to see that they were if anything disappointed at not getting all three points. The 11 players today are now in possession of the starting shirts and if they perform as they did today in training and the next games it will be hard for those coming back from their holidays to get them back.

Team

Elliott Thwaites	Alex Chapman	Tom Pearson	Greg Fedden	Stuart Thorn
Chris Eggleton	Lewis White	Paul Duggins	Chris Baker	
Matt Huckle	Danny Barker			

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