

## **COVENTRY UNITED V WORCESTER CITY**

As the Coventry United F.C. team took to the pitch to face Worcester City, it was more than an important league clash; it was an historic moment for the home side, being as it was its first home league game at the Butts Park Arena – the home of Coventry Rugby Club.

Since being formed in 2013 by four lifelong friends - Jason Kay, Jason Timms, Marcus Green and Pete Schofield - following the news that Coventry City were to play in Northampton, the Club have known some remarkable success and growth. The friends were very committed to the principal of 'football for all', and had the ambition to bring together the communities of Coventry into one family that is strong, supportive and together. Hence, they choose the name 'United'.

Three very successful seasons saw United promoted three times, and playing in the Midland Football League Premier Division. In 2015, the Club grew further by taking over Coventry City Ladies Football Club, re-branding the F.A. Women's Premier League side as Coventry United Ladies. They are now enjoying success with the Men's senior squad, the Ladies team and their junior players.

On Bank Holiday Monday, the large crowd of 623 saw two teams who were on maximum points after their first three matches, with Worcester City being title favourites. It was promising to be a great spectacle for non - league football.

The referee gets the game under way and United show their intentions by winning an early Lewis Rankin corner in the second minute that see's Jeff Woodward shoot wide of the target. In the fifth minute the roles are reversed when Jeff Woodward laid the ball to Lewis Rankin, but his shot went straight to the WCFC keeper Thomas Palmer. United started the game brightly and another chance was not long in coming. Mitchell Piggon did really well to win the ball and press forward before laying the ball through to Craig Reid whose shot also went straight to the keeper Thomas Palmer. Craig Reid had another shot at goal in the tenth minute after making space, but the keeper Thomas Palmer once again gathers the ball with ease.

The next seven minutes see United continue to press and force another couple of corners and a free kick which are all comfortably dealt with before United's Jeff Woodward receives a yellow card for a tackle on WCFC's No11 James Baldwin.

WCFC get their first sight at goal in the 21<sup>st</sup> minute when they manage to get into United's final third for the No11 James Baldwin to fire his attempt well wide of the target. The game is still at a stalemate and WCFC are having a little bit of possession but are failing to create any guilt edged chances. They manage to win a couple of free kicks in decent areas but United soon snuff the threat out.

United pick up their second yellow of the game in the 41<sup>st</sup> minute when Mitchell Piggon is booked for handball. Moments later WCFC's No10 David Reynolds is booked for his late tackle on United's Kyle Barnett. The first half is almost up but not before United's Chris Cox does really well to win back the ball before firing in a shot, which is well saved by the keeper Thomas Palmer.

Half Time - UNITED 0 WCFC 0

The second half gets under way and United carry on where they left off. Jeff Woodward and Craig Reid combine well to set up Lewis Rankin but his effort goes wide of the target in the 46<sup>th</sup> minute. United start to pass the ball around with purpose and Mitchell Piggon is released down the left, sending a cross in which somehow makes its way to Lewis Rankin lurking at the back. He then coolly picks his spot as he drills the ball into the back of the net for the opening goal of the game in the 49<sup>th</sup> minute.

UNITED 1 WCFC 0

The breakthrough has finally come and it's a well-deserved lead. The roar from the stand was a noticeable relief in this tense affair and WCFC tried to respond immediately. No9 Mark Danks picked up the ball on the edge of the area and did well to turn his marker before seeing his shot well saved by the United keeper Richard Morris. That bit of WCFC pressure is short lived, as United did not letting their opponents settle on the ball. They attack with Gift Mussa laying off a neat ball to Craig Reid who in turn steers it over the line from close range to double his team's advantage in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute.

UNITED 2 WCFC 0

WCFC now have a mountain to climb to get back in this game with United threatening to run riot. WCFC make a couple of changes in the 55<sup>th</sup> & 57<sup>th</sup> minute when they take off No11 James Baldwin and No3 Jamie Smith, sending on No12 Aaron Brett and No16 Hamilton Chiwara. United follow suit eight minutes later taking off the impressive Lewis Rankin and send on Aron Wint.

The 71<sup>st</sup> minute sees further United pressure bear fruit when Jeff Woodward is fed the ball out wide on the right. Jeff moves the ball forward slightly before sending a high and deep cross/shot that loops over the keeper and drops into the top corner of the net to almost certainly seal the points for United.

UNITED 3 WCFC 0

Shortly after the goal, both teams make further changes. WCFC send on No15 Wesley Lewis for No7 Matthew Birley and United swap Mitchell Piggon for Aaron Opoku.

In the last ten minutes, WCFC venture forward for a rare chance on goal. The No12 Aaron Brett broke free of the United defence and saw his powerful drive superbly saved by keeper Richard Morris. Another chance falls to No16 Hamilton Chiwara in the 84<sup>th</sup> minute but Richard Morris once again deals with it comfortably.

As the game draws to a close, United make their final change of the afternoon when they take off Joshua O'Grady and send on Robert Prinzel. United see the game out by keeping possession without venturing forward in numbers and the referee soon blows up for full time.

Full Time - UNITED 3 WCFC 0

Man of the Match – Coventry United Captain Chris Cox.

Match stats	(United)	(WCFC)
On target	(9)	(3)
Off target	(4)	(3)
Corners	(3)	(2)
Free kicks	(9)	(13)
Yellow cards	(2)	(1)
Red cards	(0)	(0)
Offside	(1)	(2)

After the match, Peter Reynolds the Chairman of Coventry United, said: “When we established Coventry United our aim was to create a true community club, offering opportunities for all, and our teams now span all age ranges from junior boys and girls to Men’s and Women’s. We are very excited about the move to the Butts Park Arena, and are now able to provide even more facilities and opportunities for our growing number of supporters. Today’s impressive performance against a strong Worcester City side shows how far we have come, and the 623 crowd knew they had watched a quality match.”

For more details on Coventry United F.C., the club website is [www.coventryunited.co.uk](http://www.coventryunited.co.uk)

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