UON Women’s- Oxford Brookes 2s

Super-sub Barrett scores a sensational brace as UON Women’s Football beat Oxford Brookes 3-2 in their first game of the season. “A fantastic result”, says the UON manager.

Chelsea Barret scored her first goal just one minute after coming on the pitch and added another one to the scoreboard in the second half. A third goal from number 10 Ashmore secured the win for the Northampton girls.

Northampton Manager Dino Carvalho says “the sky is the limit” for his team as they prove their worth coming back after being 0-1 down after 18 minutes. to secure their first win in front of their home crowd.

Carvalho is optimistic, saying that although “some parts of the game were not perfect, we can improve”, also praising his players’ skills and intelligence. Overall, because the team had taken part in just two training sessions, the manager thinks that although “individually they are playing well and they understand the rules, they don’t know how to connect as a team”.

Oxford were the first to put the pressure on and goalkeeper Gilmore was forced to make a great save in the first minute of the game. UON responded 8 minutes in with a shot from Ashmore nearly missing the goal, quickly followed by a missed header from midfielder Clarke.

The Northampton goalkeeper was once again put to the test in the 12th minute by Oxford’s number 8, Colyer. The hosts got a good chance on the counterattack which could not be transformed into a goal by number 15 Morris whose shot just missed the right post of the visitors’ goal. The first substitution of the game came in the 16th minute when Chaudhuri replaced Wood for UoN.

Oxford opened the scoring in the 18th minute after a great cross from number 6 Newman found Jones who managed to find the bottom corner giving the goalkeeper no chance to save her team. Northampton became a more offensive team after the goal and missed plenty of chances through Ashmore and Clarke.

A moment of inspiration from the UoN manager saw him make a crucial double substitution in the 27th minute, number 12 Veli replaced Ashmore and number 5 Barret came onto the pitch in favour of number 15 Morris. Veli earned a penalty for a handball just moments after being subbed on. The penalty was taken by Oneill who hit the crossbar, however the ball bounced back to the other sub, Barret who found the back of the net with a powerful shot from the edge of the box. 28 minutes played, 1-1.

The end of the first half still found Northampton on the offensive, with both Barret and Kenny having their attempts blocked by Oxford’s goalkeeper Thomas. A few minutes after the second half kicked off, Northampton took the lead thanks to Barret’s second goal. 45 minutes played, 2-1.

Winger Olivia Bruzda was close to scoring in the 51st minute after a great run in which she dribbled past 3 defenders, only for her shot to be saved by Thomas. Referee Will Good had to award the only yellow card of the match to Northampton defender Chaudhuri after a hard tackle in the 52nd minute.

Ashmore came back onto the pitch replacing Veli shortly after. A couple of minutes later the UoN number 10 scored, taking advantage of a goalkeeper error. This 2-goal advantage did not last long, as number 14 Bradley scored a great goal to make the final score of the game 3-2.

The visitors’ manager Jake Moors made both of his substitutions in the 68th minute, bringing on Maher and Lesley and subbing off Llumigusin and Ratini. The home manager was forced to replace captain Crane in the 73rd minute because of an injury. Oxford fought until the end but a spectacular save from Gilmore in the dying moments of the game was enough to give UoN the win.

Team sheets

University of Northampton

Oxford Brookes

1. THOMAS

2. H. LESLEY

4. LLUMIGUSIN

5. JONES

6. NEWMAN

7. MURRAY (CAPTAIN)

8. COLYER

10. RATINI

14. BRADLEY

16. PENNINGTON

19. POPE

Substitutions

3. MAHER

12. E. LESLEY

1. GILMORE

2. WOOD

6. ONEILL

7. BRUZDA

8. E. BARRET

9. SASSII

10. ASHMORE

11. CLARKE

14. KENNY

15. MORRIS

17. CRANE (CAPTAIN)

Substitutions

3. HENIG

4. CHAUDHURI

5. C. BARRET

12. VELI

16. RYAN

Managers:

* UON Women’s- Dino Carvalho
* Oxford Brookes- Jake Moors

Referee:

* Will Good