



Reading 0

BARNSELY FC



Barnsley 0

Reading's automatic promotion hopes suffered yet another major set back after a goal less stalemate with relegation threatened Barnsley.

It was a big day in the Championship which could see Wolves clinch promotion if they were to come out victors against QPR at Molineux and could even become champions if Birmingham were held against Watford. The Royals could have sealed at least a play-off place along with Cardiff if both teams were able to win their games and Swansea were held at home to Bristol City. At the other end of the table, Charlton would be relegated if they failed to beat Blackpool at the Valley or even if they won, Phil Parkinson's men would have to rely on Coventry winning at Nottingham Forest, and, Parkinson's old club Reading beating Barnsley to keep them afloat for at least another week.

The Royals' had squandered a two goal lead in their last game on Easter Monday. Noel Hunt and Jem Karacan had given Reading an early lead before being pegged by goals from Sothern and eventually DJ Campbell poked home the equaliser after a scramble between the Blackpool attackers and the goalposts. The last game at the Madejski Stadium saw the Royal's go down 0-1 after a feisty encounter with Sheffield United, Brian Howard scoring the winner with a deflected effort after a scramble in the

Saturday 18th April 2009

Madejski Stadium

3.00pm

Attendance: 19, 420

Royal's penalty area. It was then Howard's old club, Barnsley, turn to have a crack at Reading.

The hosts started brightly, Noel Hunt making a great run down the wing before putting in a great cross to the back post where his brother, Stephen, had made a great run into the area to get his head on it but his effort went agonisingly over. The away side started to get into the game, Da Silva and Macken had half chances but both went well off target. Reading also had another good chance; Stephen hunt's free kick met by Andre Bikey, but his header was just too heavy and it looped over the bar. A quiet first half quietened down even still and the first signs of Barnsley starting to frustrate Reading were showing. Barnsley tactics of slowing down the tempo were paying off. Little chances were created, players and fans alike showed there frustration; fans booed and players also lost it by giving away need less free kicks. The second half started much more brightly for Reading despite Noel Hunt having to be replaced by Shane Long following an ankle injury picked up during the first half. The only outfield Reading player not to have scored for Reading then went close, Liam Rosenior fizzing a low drive just wide of the left post. This then prompted a Royal bombardment on the Barnsley goal. Chance after chance forced corner after corner and goal line clearance after goal line clearance. Reading were

Line ups



Reading 4-4-2

Manager: Steve Coppell

GK: Marcus Hahnemann

LB: Chris Armstrong

CB: Andre Bikey **Y**

CB: Michael Duberry (C) **Y**

RB: Liam Rosenior

LM: Stephen Hunt

CM: Jem Karacan (Kalifa Cisse '90)

CM: Jay Tabb

RM: Jimmy Kebe (Glen Little '68)

ST: Dave Kitson

ST: Noel Hunt (Shane Long '49)

Subs not used: Federici, Matejovsky.



Barnsley 4-5-1

Manager: Simon Davey

GK: Luke Steele

LB: Bobby Hassell

CB: Stephen Foster

CB: Darren Moore **Y**

RB: Robert Kozluk

LM: Hugo Collace

CM: Anderson Da Silva

CM: Andranik

CM: Adam Hammil (Campbell Ryce '81)

RM: Jonathon Macken (Odejayi '90)

ST: Daniel Bogdanovic (Mifsud '80)

Subs not used: Muller, Souza.

Referee: R. Beeby

well and truly camped in the Barnsley half and the belief around the Madejski stadium was finally growing. Loyal Royals were filling up with firm belief, well that and half time refreshments! But it was the belief that Reading could finally break their run of 6 winless home games. However Barnsley gave the Royals' a scare with a brilliant break away Da Silva silkily cascading through the Reading defence before hitting a great effort hard and low towards the bottom left hand corner but the ball skimmed wide of the post. A wake up call for Reading. Reading continued to press but couldn't provide the finish. Jay Tabb hit a great volley, after a scramble in the Barnsley area, but was foiled by the great keeping of Luke Steele who tipped round the post. Barnsley finally managed to get a grip and slow the game down again Reading desperately huffed and puffed but just couldn't find a way through. A last minute free kick was swung in by little, Kitson wins the header, but the lack of power makes an easy save for a relieved Luke Steele, who clears up field prompting the final whistle which left a distraught Liam Rosenior and Shane Long collapsed and dejected in the goal net. While Barnsley settle for a priceless point.

Sam Keogh

Age 14