

Match Report

Friday 8th August. 8.00pm

Pre-Season Friendly - Played at Wincham Park Stadium (Witton Albion)

Nantwich Town 0

FC Unied of Manchester 3

Kyle Wilson. 5. Mark Beeston o/g. 49. Rhys Hardie. 88.

Nantwich Town: *Lee Jones. Andy Taylor. Darren Tinson. Mark Beeston. Charlie O'Loughlin. Phil Parkinson. Robin Gibson. Rob Hawthorne. Rodney Jack. Liam Shotton. Dave Tickle. Dave Walker. Ashley Carter. Gyorgy Kiss. Nick Linford. Glyn Blackhurst. Adam Beasley.*

FC United of Manchester: *Sam Ashton. Liam Foster. Kyle Harrop. Dale Whitehead. Micah Bleau. Adam Turner. Adam Carden. Simon Carden. Kyle Wilson. Carlos Roca. Danny Williams. Dave Roberts. Chris Baguley. Rhys Hardie. Dave Neville. Nick Robinson. Jerome Wright. Jamie Baguley. Rob Howarth.*

Referee: Mr Steve Swallow

Attendance 250

Three games in the space of five day's proved a test too far for 'The Dabbers' and with key players absent, the combined effect was to give the mobile and energetic FC United the edge in this pre-season friendly. Kyle Wilson took advantage of time and space from the edge of our box to put the 'Reds' in front as early as the 5th minute and for long periods in the first half, Karl Marginson's men largely dictated proceedings, albeit without adding to the score. For 'The Dabbers', Liam Shotton and skipper Phil Parkinson brought excellent first half saves out of Sam Ashton but, apart from those highlights in particular, 'The Dabbers' unfortunately proved largely ineffective as a strike force.

Five minutes into the second period and Mark Beeston was unfortunate to head past Lee Jones whilst shortly afterwards, we lost Rodney Jack to a nasty looking ankle injury that required a stretcher before transfer to the dressing room. Both managers rang several changes in the second period but the mobility and enthusiastic running of FC United continued to cause us problems. Just past the hour, our boy's began to demonstrate a shade more competitiveness and aggression, eventually placing our visitors on the defensive, but to the 'Reds' credit, handled the pressure well. Glyn Blackhurst, Adam Beasley and Liam Shotton, all had shots blocked late in the game but we can ill afford to complain after our static defence allowed Rhys Hardie, on for the injured Dale Whitehead, to secure a deserved victory late in the game.

Steve Davis commented: "It's never nice to lose, but I purposefully arranged this week's heavy schedule so that I could see which players performed best under a punishing schedule, which also included a training session on Thursday evening before the match. It has proved valuable, and whilst some observers may have been unhappy with Friday's formation, and result, I had no intention of giving an insight as to how we will line-up when the season gets underway. Contract players apart, the decision regarding the final squad will have been made by Thursday of this coming week and, unfortunately, there will be several players who will have to move on because they aren't of the quality required for the Premier Division. With regard to Rodney (Jack) the reality is, the ankle injury is going to sideline him for a while so his enforced absence is going to prevent us from taking a longer look at him, however, perhaps when he is fit again maybe an opportunity will arise, but for now, it is impossible to consider him in our immediate plans."