West Brom vs Blackburn Rovers (H) 13.01.24

The Baggies delivered a near complete performance following a 4-1 win against Blackburn Rovers at The Hawthorns on Saturday.

It was an evenly matched opening with chances at either end. Blackburn started the first half brightly, and had the ball in the net via Jake Garret, but the goal was disallowed for offside.

It was Albion who took the lead, as on the 11th minute mark, Darnell Furlong's long throw from the right-hand side bounced across the Blackburn 6-yard box, and Tom Fellows was on hand to head the ball into the net.

Albion nearly doubled their lead 10 minutes later, with Darnell Furlong's long ball over the top Rovers' defence to John Swift, whose first-time effort on the volley was blazed over the bar. Blackburn nearly struck back a minute later, but Jake Garret got his strike wrong and he watched as his effort sailed past the post.

The Baggies were in complete control of the first half and had another chance to solidify that. Darnell Furlong's long throw-ins had already caused the Blackburn defence problems, and his throw-in on the 23rd minute mark found the head of centre back Kyle Bartley, whose tame effort was straight at Wahlstedt in the Blackburn goal.

The baggies had completely dominated the game since their opener, and it was only a matter of time before they added to their advantage. On the 30-minute mark Brandon Thomas-Asante capitalised on a wayward header from Rover's captain Dominic Hyam. He drove down the right-hand side and struck it beautifully into the bottom left corner to put Albion 2-0 up.

It didn't take long for Carlos Corberan's side to add another to their advantage, as just 2 minutes after the second, Albion's short corner routine worked to a treat, as Swift found Mowatt on the edge of the Blackburn 18-yard box and his deflected effort bounced off of Wahlstedt. The ball then kindly fell to Brandon Thomas-Asante, but his moment of glory was wiped off as the last touch came off of Blackburn defender and captain Dominic Hyam, who turned the ball into his own net.

The baggies were still feeling well and truly up for it. On the 39-minute mark, Adam Reach swung in a cross deep from the left-hand side which found Tom Fellows who controlled the ball well, but his sliced effort was wide of the mark. Albion's Kyle Bartley received the first booking of the afternoon a minute later.

Cedric Kipre saw Yellow for the Baggies 3 minutes later and Leonard's header sailed wide of the post from the resulting free kick.

The fourth official indicated 4 minutes of additional time at the end of the first half and on the 48th minute, Thomas-Asante set Tom Fellows on his way down the right-hand side, and after a bit of trickery, Fellows cut inside and drove into the Blackburn box, but his curling effort marginally went over the bar. The referee eventually blew the whistle for half-time, rounding off a dominant first-half performance from The Baggies.

Both sides went into the second half unchanged. Blackburn started the second half just as they started the first-half, as on 49 minutes, Harry Leonard had the ball in the net for Rovers, but just like Jake Garret's effort at the start of the first half, it was ruled out for offside. Rovers were keen to keep the pressure on the Albion and it only took them a minute to have yet another chance. Mowatt's sloppy play saw him give the ball away to Garret, who played a lovely ball to Leonard, but his rushed attempt was a comfortable stop for Alex Palmer.

Both sets of fans were left on the edge of their seats in the opening stages of the first half and it wasn't long until another chance for the Albion arose. After a good high press by the Baggies, John Swift picked out Tom Fellows on the right-hand side, whose shot was ferociously struck at Rovers' keeper Leopold Wahlstedt, who palmed it out for a corner to Albion. It would only take 3 minutes for Blackburn to have a chance of their own, as Sondre Tronstad's sliced effort from outside the box was excellently saved by Alex Palmer.

On the 58th minute, Albion Head Coach Carlos Corberan made the first few changes of the afternoon. Adam Reach came off for Pipa and John Swift made way for Nathaniel Chalobah.

Jake Garret took matters into his own hands on 60 minutes, as his dancing feet saw him gallop through the Albion defence and bend it beautifully beyond Alex Palmer into the bottom left corner and restore some hope in a struggling Blackburn Rovers side.

2 minutes after, Blackburn boss Jon Dahl Tomasson made his first two adjustments to his team, as Harry Leonard was replaced by Sam Gallagher and Scott Wharton made way for Joe Rankin-Costello.

Despite their changes, things still wouldn't go well for Blackburn, as it only took 2 minutes after the changes for The Albion to restore their 2-goal cushion. This came on the 63rd minute mark, after Blackburn's wayward clearance landed at the feet of Townsend. He sprayed it out to the left for Furlong, who nodded it back into the six-yard box for Asante, and his volley bounced off the ground and into the roof of the net, giving Carlos Corberan's side a comfortable 3 goal cushion.

In the next 10 minutes that followed, Albion were constantly pushing for another. Okay Yokuslu's ferocious effort at the back-post went well over the bar after a beautiful Darnell Furlong cross from the right-hand side. The Baggies were also able to put the ball in the net on the 74th minute through Cedric Kipre, but referee Stephen Martin disallowed it for a foul.

It was only 2 minutes later that Albion made their final 3 changes of the afternoon. Okay Yokuslu made way for a returning Jed Wallace, who was given a warm welcome back onto the pitch by the Albion fans after being out with a hip injury, and Cedric Kipre made way for young defender Caleb Taylor. Brandon Thomas-Asante's game came to an end, as after a standing ovation by the Albion fans for his standout performance on the night, he made way for Daryl Dike.

Baggies fans held their breath on the 85th minute mark, as a struggling Nathaniel Chalobah went down with an injury for around 3 minutes but was back up on his feet, but he still played with some discomfort.

Albion were eager to round off a complete performance and they nearly did so on the 88 minutes, as Furlong's excellent control down the right-hand side led him to cut it back to Dike, who's first time effort went marginally wide of the mark.

The fourth official indicated for 6 minutes of added time, but Albion weren't showing any signs of slowing their tempo and kept pushing at Blackburn. On the 93rd minute, substitute Jed Wallace beautifully switched the play to Pipa, who takes the ball down the left-hand side and carried the ball to the edge of the Rovers 18-yard box. Pipa eventually pulled the trigger, but his driven effort whistled past the post.

Referee Stephen Martin saved Rovers any further punishment and blew for Full-Time and a mighty roar of applause filled the Hawthorns Stadium, as The Baggies saw out an emphatic 4-1 victory!

Carlos Corberan's side now look ahead to another League game away from home to 11th place Norwich City, who saw out a 3-1 victory over League One side Bristol Rovers in the FA Cup. The next

home game for Albion comes in the form of a West Midlands derby, as The Baggies face Premier League opposition in Wolverhampton Wanderers, as a showdown in the 4th round of the FA Cup awaits.