

Sophias Match Day Report
West Bromwich Albion v Burnley Women @ the Hawthorns
Date: 10th March 2024 - 14:15 KO

Sunday's game at the Hawthorns for this Mother's Day clash saw Burnley in good form and putting them third in the league while the Baggies hover around mid-table hoping to climb above Derby County and catch Stoke and Wolverhampton Wanderers. The clarets did beat Albion 3-1 the reverse fixture back in November with the Baggies Francesca Orthodoxou getting on the score sheet, so the squad know it will be a difficult task ahead.

This mid-afternoon kick-off celebrated International Women's Day, so a sea of fans arrived at the Hawthorns with many being young girls brought by their moms, capitalising on the chance to see their female idols play.

Blue and white of Albion started the game well with early pressure and a blocked shot brought a couple of consecutive corners which put Burnley on the back foot and got home fans cheering.

The momentum continued and saw Simran Jhamat have a shot go narrowly over the bar from 25 yards after good build up play. This fine run of play led to a great Albion goal in the 13th minute when Phoebe Warner was in the box to poke home a great cross to put the Albion ahead in the early stages.

Burnley's first real attacking play came in the 18th minute when a fine through ball was played to the striker who agonisingly shot straight at the ever-present goalkeeper in Anna Miller. From then on it was a real battle in the middle of the park with both teams cancelling each other out but it was Albion who went into half time interval ahead.

Burnley's team talk must have been a constructive one as they came racing out of the blocks in the second-half, keeping Albion penned into their own defensive area and creating numerous chances. It was the 56th minute when they broke the deadlock and drew level with a quick move down their right wing and a low near post cross tucked under Miller by Burnley's Aimee Kelly bringing the score level to 1-1.

The continual pressure prompted Albion's manager Siobhan Hodgetts- Still to make some changes and bring on Fran Orthodoxou on the hour mark to try and keep Albion in the game. It seemed to work as neither side really created any defining chances up to the 90th minute, however a real moment of panic did arise in added time when Burnley's final corner caused a scramble in the box. This was eventually cleared, bringing loud applause and appreciation from the Baggies faithful in the stands.

A real gritty and hard-working performance from Albion women has seen them take 17 points from their 16 league games, keeping them comfortably above relegation 8th place. They now move on to the Paycare Stadium for Thursday night's local Derby against Stourbridge.

The final score ended 1-1 with a great performance from both teams.