

## Pickering Town 0 v Kendal Town 1

Kendal Town moved up to 7<sup>th</sup> place in the table after they defeated Pickering Town 1-0, Hugo Rodriguez's solitary strike after 8 minutes proved to be enough as Chris Humphreys team claimed their third clean sheet of the season.

Rodriguez who was playing his third game for Kendal since making his debut in the 1-0 win against City of Liverpool pounced on a loose ball in the penalty area before firing past the home team keeper.

Kendal were defensively solid throughout the game, while Morgan Bacon made a number of good saves, however The Mintcakes had also created some glorious opportunities most notably from a 4 on 1 break in the second half, however 1 goal proved to be enough as Kendal's resurgence continues.

And the Mintcakes made a solid start when Rodriguez scored past the keeper, however Pickering applied pressure while Morgan made a stunning save to deny Wayne Brooksbys goal bound free kick on 33 minutes.

Kendal had chances of their own through Rodriguez who missed the target after a couple of good crosses in the area, while Jamie Hodgson and Ben Anderson caused problems for the opposition defence. Pickering pressed for the equaliser during the second half however Kendal held their defensive shape well with a solid team effort. Seydou Bamba impressed as did both Charlie Birch and Liam Lightfoot who alongside the whole team worked hard as a unit. Pickering nearly equalised when Jessops effort rebounded off the post while Kendal should have made the game safe from a 4 on 1 break, however they missed the target.

And the hosts had a penalty appeal turned down with 5 minutes left when Brandon Morrison went down in the area. Kendal though saw out the closing stages as they secured the win as they are scheduled to host Brighouse Town on Saturday in the FA Trophy before they travel to play Ramsbottom United next Tuesday.

Chris Humphrey comments courtesy of Radio Cumbria: "I am delighted we trained hard on Thursday after giving the boys a week off training. We looked fit, especially first half, the second half was always going to be difficult, and the team defended very well. We had a lot of chances and didn't convert, however the lads were lucky enough to get the first goal and then they defended from their shape to win the game. Hugo Rodriguez has made a massive difference, he has been excellent and he works hard, runs behind the opposition defence as well being a huge threat in the air. Last Thursday was the first time he trained with us and is looking better every time and I can work with him and improve his game. Hugo is going to be vital this season and hopefully we can keep him fit for the rest of the season.

The only frustrating thing is we didn't take our chances, it is the small area of our game which we need to be better especially when we get a 4 on 1 break like we did in the game. Its something to work on in training but what a nice thing to be working on, instead of having to work on defensive shape and defensive play, instead we are going to work on attacking play and how to create things from our solid shape. Jamie Hodgson is good on the ball a very good player, versatile and has brought a lot to our game as has Ben Anderson who has improved us.

However we concentrate on what we do on the pitch, take it one game at a time, our FA Trophy with Brighouse Town at the weekend will give me the chance to give the lads who haven't been playing a run out and we see if we can get through to the next round.

