

Queens Park 1 – 3 Forfar

Douglas 64'

Sellars 6'

Watson 68'

Harty 71'

Hampden Park

20/02/10

Irn-Bru Third Division

Att: 603

Forfar extended their unbeaten run in the league to nine games with an emphatic victory over ten man Queens Park to consolidate their play-off position while the defeat leaves Queens Park in fifth place 6 points behind Berwick in the race for the final playoff place.

Queens Park had recorded a win over bottom side Montrose the week before and were looking to build on this with a win over high-flying Forfar. They started the game brightly with Michael Daly forcing a save from Ally Brown on the end of a good through ball from Tony Quinn. However despite this positive start they went behind four minutes later after a cross from the right evaded Lachlan before dropping to Barry Sellars who rifled past McGeown to score his first goal since rejoining Forfar in January. As a result of the opener Queens Park upped their efforts and besieged the Forfar half for the majority of the first half with Quinn firing over from long range before Daly's header was easily saved by Brown. Forfar set out with an attacking 4-3-3 formation to accommodate danger men Ross Campbell and Ian Harty however it looked as though the narrow midfield would be their undoing as Hamilton, Douglas and particularly Murray were exploiting the flanks with only a lack of clinical finishing from the strikers keeping the scores level. Forfar were then left thanking Iain Campbell after 20 minutes when a Queens Park free kick perfectly rehearsed from the training ground gave Daly a sight of goal but was denied by an excellent last ditch challenge from Campbell allowing Tod to complete the clearance. Forfar were on the ropes but nearly doubled their lead against the run of play when a break down the left with Mowat allowed Paul Watson to fire a shot off the inside of the post before James Brough scrambled the ball off the line. If the Spiders thought this was a let off they were mistaken, because a minute later they were reduced to ten men when Ricky Little took down Ian Harty with a professional foul earning him a red card an early bath meaning Queens Park finished the first half a man and a goal down.

The second half saw Gallacher replace Lachlan in an effort to shore up the defence for the inevitable Forfar pressure, although it was Queens Park who nearly earned their equaliser in spectacular fashion after superb control on the chest by Chris Hamilton was followed up by a ferocious dipping volley from an acute angle was well saved by former Hibernian trainee Ally Brown. It was looking as though Queens Park would rue their missed chances in this game after a slick one two between Hamilton and Daly broke the Forfar offside trap but Andy Tod formerly of Dunfermline and Hearts used his experience to break up the move. Hamilton was causing all sorts of problems in the Forfar defence and it was yet more of his direct attacking that won the free-kick that the impressive Barry Douglas dispatched in spectacular fashion into the top right corner from around 20 yards out. He wouldn't have looked out of place with Nakamura on the back of his shirt with a finish of such quality. Forfar however are a dangerous side at this level and hit back almost immediately when Ross Campbell's corner was met by Paul Watson who rose highest to head in Forfar's second and his third since joining the club in January to delight of the travelling fans. Forfar then added a third to effectively kill off the home side after a perfectly weighted through ball from Keith Gordon found Ian Harty who broke the offside trap to calmly slot past McGeown for his sixth league goal of the season an pile further misery on the home crowd. This ended the game as a competition with Forfar happy to see out the game with possession football using their extra man advantage. The game ended in a convincing win for Forfar but Queens Park will look to missed opportunities, particularly in the first half where the result could easily have been different in a game which could have revitalised their play-off chances which now seem out of reach for Gardener Speirs side this season.

So, the result was a comfortable win for Forfar whose rich vein of form continues and they now have an eleven point cushion over fifth place Queens Park to all but seal their play-off position and can look forward to hosting Stranraer at Station Park next Saturday looking to sneak into contention for automatic promotion with their games in hand over league leaders Livingston. Queens Park on the other hand are left looking over their shoulders toward the bottom half of the table and their play-off hopes left hanging by a thread.

By Michael Dall
Kings Park Secondary
21/02/10