

Promotion hopes Loum-ing after hard-earned win over Reading

Following a 3-2 loss to Stoke City, the team were expected to deliver a good result for home fans against 16th place Reading FC. With John Buckley out for the remainder of the season due to a knee injury, Morton took his place in the starting eleven, and one of the previous games' scorers, Ben Brereton Diaz was given a start, after coming on as a substitute against Stoke and scoring.

The game started off to a quick start, with Rovers playing fast passes, making runs, forcing the opposing players to put an even bigger shift in to keep Rovers at bay, but they failed to do so, with Rovers scoring in the 2nd minute, Ben Brereton Diaz getting on the scoresheet yet again. Rovers continued to dominate the game in all areas of the pitch, with numerous chances being created, but the Rovers attack were unable to produce an end product.

As the second half kicked off, Reading were aiming at an equaliser, with them keeping pressure, creating chances of their own. They played football perfectly, with beautiful moments of passing, and these moments lead to Cesare Casadei managing to equalise, with a superb finish after a brilliant pass. This sparked hope in the Reading players, who needed a win to push them away from the relegation zone. But Rovers manager Jon Dahl Tomasson had other ideas, as he brought Tyrhys Dolan and Ryan Hedges onto the field. Dolan looked very confident on the pitch, bursting with energy, ready to spring at an attack. But, it was the Welsh substitute who grabbed the winner from a beautiful backheel from Sam Gallagher. This won Hedges his first Championship goal since his move from Scottish club Aberdeen in the January transfer window.

With this goal almost killing off the game, Mamadou Loum, Reading's Senegalese midfielder saw red after disgustingly headbutting Sam Gallagher, which also started a brawl between both teams. Loum had diminished every ounce of hope in the Reading fans, as they were reduced to silence from then on, while on the contrary, the Rovers fans were roaring, delighted with their winner.

Rovers kept their heads and hopes high, with Sammie Szmodics and Lewis Travis leading by example, putting on marvellous displays of attacking and defending football, earning Szmodics the Man Of The Match award, and earning Blackburn Rovers the 3 points. The Rovers' next game was the FA Cup quarter finals against another Championship side Sheffield United, after Rovers had defeated Leicester City 2-1 in the previous round. Jon Dahl Tomasson and the Blackburn Rovers team surely believe in the FA Cup dream, and hope to reach the final and win the trophy, against all odds. But for now, they had secured a victory against Reading, putting them in 5th place, and continuing the long journey to promotion.