

GWALIA

UNITED



TheFA Women's
National League



GWALIA UNITED

BOURNEMOUTH SPORTS

USW SPORT PARK | 23 .8. 2026| 14:00



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- Julian Jenkins & Damien Singh
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- Hannah Mills

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WELCOME TO BOURNEMOUTH SPORTS



Following what was a resounding and hugely encouraging 6-0 victory away at Ascot United in our opening league fixture, it is a pleasure to welcome Bournemouth Sports to USW Sports Park. The result at Ascot was a fantastic way to begin our league campaign, but it was also a continuation of the work the players had put in throughout pre-season. We went unbeaten across all five of our pre-season fixtures, recording strong victories against Sporting Khalsa, Cardiff Met and Briton Ferry, alongside an excellent draw against Stoke City.

To be unbeaten after five games, including the opening league fixture, is exactly where we want to be. More importantly, though, the performances have reflected the standards that this group has set for itself. Those standards are not just about results and performances on the pitch; they are about the commitment, professionalism and attitude that our players show every day, both on and off the pitch. The players deserve a huge amount of credit for the way they have embraced those expectations. The 6-0 win at Ascot demonstrated the quality and attacking threat we possess, but we know that every game presents a new challenge and we cannot afford to take anything for granted.

Bournemouth Sports will provide another test for us today, and we will approach the game with the same focus, intensity and professionalism that we have demanded throughout pre-season. Our aim is to continue building momentum, continue improving and, most importantly, continue representing Gwalia United in the right way. Thank you, as always, to everyone who continues to support us. Your backing makes a huge difference to the players and staff, and we hope we can give you plenty more to celebrate today.

Enjoy the game. Mwynhewch y gêm.

CORI WILLIAMS-MILLS
MANAGER





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MEET

ELLIE-MAI SANFORD

From Pontypool to Texas and back again, Ellie Mai Sanford has already packed plenty of football miles into her career. A versatile defender with experience in the Welsh international setup, the Women's Super League and American college soccer, Ellie Mai brings a wealth of experience and a fascinating story to Gwalia United. Her football journey began at St. Albans RC High School, where her potential quickly became clear. That early promise led to an opportunity with Bristol City, where she made the step into senior football and gained valuable experience competing against some of the biggest names in the women's game.

Ellie Mai was given the chance to test herself against some of the very best, making first-team appearances against Chelsea and Arsenal. Those experiences provided an invaluable education for a young defender, learning to deal with the pace, physicality and quality demanded at the highest level of the domestic game.

Her development was also being recognised on the international stage. Ellie Mai represented Wales at U15, U17 and U19 level gaining experience across several age groups and competing in European Championship qualifying campaigns. One of the highlights of her international career came in 2017, when she captained Wales to victory at the Bob Docherty Tournament.



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The opportunity to experience a completely different football culture came in 2020. Ellie Mai headed across the Atlantic after accepting a soccer scholarship at the University of the Incarnate Word in Texas joining the Cardinals and beginning a four-year chapter in NCAA Division I soccer. Over four seasons in the United States, Ellie Mai made more than 50 appearances, established herself as a regular starter and became a dependable presence in the Cardinals' defence.

On the pitch, Ellie Mai's game is built around many of the qualities you want from a modern defender. She is composed in possession, strong in the air and reads the game intelligently, allowing her to anticipate danger rather than simply react to it. Her experience also gives her a calmness when games become difficult, while her versatility means she can be trusted in different defensive roles. Since joining the club, Ellie Mai has made an immediate impression, both through her performances and her presence within the group. She marked her debut in memorable fashion against MK Dons, getting herself on the scoresheet with a perfectly timed run from a set-piece delivery before producing a composed finish.

While her defensive responsibilities remain her priority, Ellie Mai has already shown that she can be a threat at the other end of the pitch too. Her aerial ability and timing make her particularly valuable from set pieces, giving Gwalia another dimension in the final third. For Gwalia United, having a player with that background is a significant asset. Ellie Mai has already demonstrated that she can compete at a high level, while her experience of different footballing cultures brings a valuable perspective to the dressing room. She understands the demands of the game, the importance of preparation and the standards required to perform consistently. For supporters, there is plenty to look forward to from a player who combines international experience, American college football and top-level domestic exposure with the determination to keep improving.



MATCH REPORT



6

FULL-TIME

0



Esme Kilburn-Thompson's hat-trick, plus goals from Molly Kehoe, Manon Pearce and Summer Evans, gave Gwalia United a thumping win at Ascot United as they began their FA Women's National League campaign in style.

Gwalia could hardly have wished for a better start to their opening fixture of the season, racing into a 4-0 half-time lead before adding two more after the break to seal a comprehensive 6-0 victory at The Racecourse Ground in front of a crowd of around 95 on a sunny afternoon in Ascot. Gwalia were ahead inside the first couple of minutes. Molly Kehoe pounced early to open the scoring with the quickest goal of the opening weekend across the entire FA Women's National League.

To their credit, Ascot rallied after the early setback and began to find their feet defending resolutely. But Gwalia struck again on the half-hour when Manon Pearce's cross from the left was turned home first-time by Esme Kilburn-Thompson to make it 2-0.

Manon Pearce then got in on the scoring act herself, curling home a superb strike from distance in the 35th minute to put the visitors 3-0 up. Esme Kilburn-Thompson had her second of the afternoon moments before the break, flicking home from close range in first-half stoppage time to send Gwalia in at the interval with a commanding 4-0 lead.



Megan Bible in action: Photo Credit: Ben Brain Photography

The visitors continued where they left off after the restart and were unfortunate not to add to their tally inside the opening minute of the second half. Callie Jones saw an effort come back off the post, before Manon Pearce crashed the follow-up against the crossbar.

Gwalia's fifth goal was not long in arriving. Five minutes into the second half, Summer Evans — making her FA Women's National League debut — curled a free-kick from just outside the box into the top right-hand corner. Kilburn-Thompson completed her hat-trick on 57 minutes, turning home a rebound to make it 6-0 and put the result beyond any doubt with well over half an hour still to play.



Game report in conjunction with:

Majestic Media



“I’M ABSOLUTELY BUZZING TO HAVE SCORED A HAT-TRICK ON MY DEBUT! BEING AT GWALIA HAS BEEN AMAZING SO FAR, AND I COULDN’T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER START.”



ESME KILBURN-THOMPSON



**TheFA Women's
National League**

**MOLLY KEHOE SCORED THE FIRST GOAL OF THE ENTIRE
2026-27 FA NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE SEASON**



**“I WAS REALLY PLEASED TO
GET PLAYER OF THE MATCH
LAST WEEK AND EXCITED
TO GO AGAIN THIS
WEEKEND”**

CALLIE JONES





**“IT WAS GREAT TO GET A GOAL
IN THE FIRST GAME OF THE
SEASON. HOPEFULLY IT’S A
FIRST OF MANY GOALS FOR US
AS A TEAM THIS SEASON”**

MOLLY KEHOE

TODAY'S SQUADS

CARFANNAU HEDDIW



LAURA **O'SULLIVAN-JONES*** 1



ELLIE-MAI **SANFORD*** 2



ELIN **THOMAS** 3



KATIE **QUICK*** 4



MEGAN **BIBLE** 5



BONNIE **GREADY** 7



ANYA **GRUNEWALD*** 8



ELIZA **COLLIE** 9



MANON **PEARCE*** 10



ESME **KILBURN-THOMPSON** 11



CORI **WILLIAMS-MILLS*** 12



MOLLY **KEHOE*** 14



EMMA **THOMAS*** 16



DAISY **ACKERMAN*** 17



CALLIE **JONES*** 19



ISSY **NEWS** 20



SUMMER **EVANS** 21



IMI **SCOURFIELD*** 22



CERY'S **JONES*** 23



JESSICA **COCKAYNE** 24



BENEDICTE **HAALAND*** 26



KYLIE **NOLAN*** 27



KATIE **DAVIES** 28



AMELIAH **YARWOOD*** 31

ANA **MACHADO**

EMMA **WHALL**

JESSICA **FOWELL**

KATE **FOX**

LIANE **FOLKENSTERN**

SOPHIE **LERIGO**

CHLOSE **SHEFFIELD**

FREYA **ROLFE**

KAITLYN **ELLIOTT**

KAYLEIGH **PROUT**

MOLLY **GLADWELL**

*Age Grade International *Full International

Match Officials: Luke Fabry (Referee) | Oliver Spender (Assistant Referee) | Luke Hinchcliffe (Assistant Referee)



TheFA Women's National League

Division One South West

Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	 Gwalia United	1	1	0	0	6	3
2	 Moneyfields	1	1	0	0	4	3
3	 Bridgwater United	1	1	0	0	3	3
4	 Abingdon United	1	1	0	0	1	3
5	 Bournemouth Sports	1	1	0	0	1	3
6	 Wycombe Wanderers	1	1	0	0	1	3
7	 Keynsham Town	1	0	0	1	-1	0
8	 Marine Academy Plymouth	1	0	0	1	-1	0
9	 Torquay United	1	0	0	1	-1	0
10	 Bristol Rovers	1	0	0	1	-3	0
11	 Maidenhead United	1	0	0	1	-4	0
12	 Ascot United	1	0	0	1	-6	0



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WE GIVE OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING
FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN'S FOOTBALL IN WALES AT GWALIA UNITED



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KATIE QUICK

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LEAGUE FIXTURES

AUGUST

SUN 16 (A) ASCOT UNITED

SUN 23 (H) BOURNEMOUTH SPORTS

SUN 30 (A) TORQUAY UNITED

SEPTEMBER

SUN 13 (H) MONEYFIELDS

SUN 20 (A) WYCOMBE WANDERERS

OCTOBER

SUN 11 (H) KEYNSHAM TOWN

SUN 18 (A) MAIDENHEAD UNITED

WED 28 (H) BRISTOL ROVERS



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LEAGUE FIXTURES



**TheFA Women's
National League**

NOVEMBER

SUN 8 (A) MARINE ACADEMY PLYMOUTH

SUN 22 (H) ABINGDON UNITED

SUN 29 (A) BRIDGWATER UNITED

DECEMBER

SUN 6 (A) BOURNEMOUTH SPORTS

SUN 13 (H) ASCOT UNITED

JANUARY

SUN 10 (H) TORQUAY UNITED

SUN 24 (A) MONEYFIELDS

MATCH DAY MASCOTS

6 SEPTEMBER
13 SEPTEMBER
4 OCTOBER
11 OCTOBER
25 OCTOBER
29 OCTOBER
22 NOVEMBER

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS
MONEYFIELDS
FA CUP
KEYNSHAM TOWN
FA CUP
BRISTOL ROVERS
ABINGDON UNITED

Available
Portskewett and Sudbrook JFC
Available
Portskewett and Sudbrook JFC
Available
Available
Available

TO REGISTER: HANNAH@GWALIAUNITED.COM



NEXT HOME GAME

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2PM

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS

