

Saturday 17th Aug 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Bath City FC



Bishop 's Stortford 1 - 2 Bath City : HT 0 - 1 : Att 417

The Skril South

The Blues ' first game on their return to the South didn 't go to plan as goals in a ten minute spell either side of the interval put the visitors on top and although a Kyle Asante header five minutes from time was a life-line they weren 't able to equalise in the short time left. Except for short passages of play, primarily at the start, Stortford were second best to the Romans in a disappointing display. For the third year in a row the Blues were on the wrong end of a losing score-line at home on the opening day of a Conference campaign.

In blustery conditions the Blues attacked the Airport end in the first half and for the first twenty minutes looked the better side and had more of the game territorially. Kyle Vassell was unlucky with a low shot across the goal following a long ball out of defence by George Allen in the second minute and Anthony Church should have done better with a header off target in the 10th minute from a Harry Baker cross.

Striker Vassell was also close a little later when his diving header was narrowly over the bar from Reece Prestedge 's centre from the left. But then City started to settle and began to string some useful moves together. Keeper Sam Cowler was called into action in the 22nd minute having to dive full length to his right to keep out a low 30 yard free-kick from Aaron Brown at the foot of an upright and ten minutes later the Stortford stopper saved low to stop an angled drive from striking threat Andy Watkins.

With Blues ' often misplacing their passes forward their momentum was lost and the visitors again nearly took the lead when Watkins laid the ball on for Brown to cut in from the left but fortunately his shot inched past the far post. City finally went ahead in the 43rd minute. Adam Connolly 's cross from the right touch-line found its way to ANDY WATKINS just inside the near angle of the box and his rising first time shot beat Sam Cowler via the underside of the crossbar (0-1).

The visitors continued to have the better of the exchanges after the break and doubled their lead in the 53rd minute. Brown 's free-kick close to the corner flag on the right was met by a glancing header by DAVID PRATT ten yards from the near post and the ball found the bottom opposite corner of the net (0-2).

With the Stortford defence looking distinctly uncomfortable Pratt blazed over when well placed in the 57th minute and Mark Preece was only a foot wide of Sam Cowler 's left hand post with a header twenty minutes from time. The Blues missed a chance to reduce the arrears in the 71st minute as Callum McNaughton sent a close range header wide following a Johnny Herd corner on the right.

Bath 's Noah Keats twice went close to netting a third goal for City before Stortford cut the deficit. With five minutes of normal time left, an excellent pass in midfield from skipper Reece Prestedge found Kyle Vassell on the right and when the ball was swung into the box substitute KYLE ASANTE 's looping header went over keeper Jason Mellor and although centre back Danny Ball made an acrobatic clearance referee Barry Holderness awarded a goal (1-2).

There were hopes of an unlikely point for the Blues but in fact City could have restored a two goal advantage before the end with substitute Ross Stearn being denied by Cowler at the near post and then Mark Preece 's header being cleared off the line by Ashley Miller after another corner. The Blues ' Anthony Church and Kyle Vassell were shown yellow cards during the match.

Full time: 1-2

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Sam Cowler; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; Reece Prestedge; Callum Mc Naughton; George Allen; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church (sub – Kyle Asante 66 mins); Kyle Vassell; Steve Cawley (sub – Sean Francis 79 mins); Harry Baker (sub – George Sykes 58 mins). Unused substitutes: Luke Milbourne and Joe Wright.

BATH CITY: Jason Mellor; Sekani Simpson; Andy Gallinagh; Mark Preece; Danny Ball; Noah Keats (sub – Chris Allen 86 mins); Ben Adelsbury; Adam Connolly; David Pratt (sub – Ross Stearn 77 mins); Andy Watkins (sub – Josh Low 77 mins); Aaron Brown. Unused substitutes: Joe Burnell and Dan Bowman.