

Saturday 31st Aug 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Maidenhead Utd FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Maidenhead 2 - 2 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 1 - 2 : Att 384

The Skril South

Stortford 's tough trip to York Road resulted in a well-earned point being gained against the strong, well organised Magpies. On reflection they can feel that they could have come away with maximum points from this very entertaining match as, apart from a penalty miss by Reece Prestedge four minutes from the end of normal time, the Blues were never behind in the contest and after leading at the interval they had the greater number of clear cut opportunities in the second half to have clinched a win.

Rod Stringer kept the same starting eleven and bench that had beaten Bromley five days earlier whilst United included Curtis Ujah and Danny J Green who had both played for Stortford last season.

In fact in the first five minutes it was a clearance from Ujah that was blocked by George Sykes and when the ball rebounded out to the left Johnny Herd gained possession and drilled low across goal and inches wide of the far upright. At the other end experienced striker Richard Pacquette was close with a lob narrowly past Joe Wright 's right hand post.

The Blues went ahead in the 11th minute with the first goal that the hosts had conceded in open play this campaign. From the second of successive corners from the right by Reece Prestedge, SEAN FRANCIS ' header was blocked near the line and the central defender fired the rebound into the net from ten yards (0-1).

Five minutes later George Sykes flicked on a pass forward from Callum McNaughton into the path of Kyle Vassell but the striker 's 15 yard angled effort from the left was held low by keeper Elvijs Putnins. Then, shortly afterwards, a throw on the left by Johnny Herd was back headed across goal by McNaughton but Matt Johnson was unable to keep his volley down and it cleared the bar.

During a short spell of pressure by United, Joe Wright punched away a cross from Reece Tison-Lascaris and then held on to a shot from Michael Malcolm. However, it was a little against the run of play when the Magpies equalised in the 24th minute. Stortford having won a corner were completely caught upfield when the hosts broke swiftly and Tison-Lascaris, a few yards inside the Blues ' half, slipped the ball forward for DANNY J GREEN to run through and shoot under the advancing Wright from just inside the box (1-1).

Maidenhead had the edge after scoring but Stortford retook the lead with a fine goal in the 39th minute. Sean Francis took the ball from just inside his own half before he linked with Johnny Herd and Reece Prestedge in a move on the left that ended with the Blues skipper crossing into the middle and KYLE VASSELL finding the net with a low shot from 15 yards (1-2).

Stortford suffered a blow three minutes from the break when George Allen had to leave the pitch with a hamstring problem

and the young defender was replaced by Cliff Akurang. The hosts finished off the half with a spell of pressure and Wadah Ahmidi and Richard Pacquette went close in the minutes leading up to the break.

Apart from a long clearance by Sean Francis from his own half that bounced narrowly over the Maidenhead bar the hosts had the better of the exchanges on the restart. Pacquette shot over from close range following a cross from the right in the 52nd minute whilst on the hour mark Michael Malcolm 's free-kick from the edge of the box struck Blues ' defensive wall before being cleared.

The Blues had the aid of the slope in the second half and they had a strong penalty shout in their next attack when Kyle Vassell released George Sykes into the left side of the box and the young striker seemed to be brought down by a defender. However, Referee Derek Eaton waved away the claims. A minute later Sykes was replaced by Harry Baker and Cliff Akurang joined Kyle Vassell up front.

After a period of even play United levelled in the 73rd minute. Danny J Green ran on to a ball into the box from the left and although he seemed to lose control, substitute TONY MENDY was quickly in to shoot low past Wright from close range (2-2).

It was from that point that Stortford could have made the Magpies suffer. Twice Kyle Vassell almost netted after moves on the left. Firstly stopper Putnins saved at the near post and then another shot was just off target. In the 82nd minute Baker set up Prestedge to cross from the left into the box and Anthony Church lifted over from 12 yards.

The concerted pressure by Stortford led to them being awarded a penalty in the 86th minute. Again it followed a raid on the left side and after Prestedge had passed to Kyle Vassell, the striker 's ball aimed inside towards the six yard box struck the arm of Maidenhead skipper Mark Nisbet at close range and Referee Eaton this time awarded a spot-kick. Unfortunately keeper Putnins guessed correctly and dived to his left to hold on to Prestedge 's penalty which lacked power. So for the second successive match the Blues failed to net from the spot.

The Magpies went close to taking the points late on as substitute Michael Pook had a low shot from close range well saved by Joe Wright going down sharply to his left in the 89th minute and then in the last action of the four minutes stoppage time the Stortford keeper punched out another free-kick from Michael Malcolm.

Referee Eaton cautioned the Blues ' Anthony Church and Matt Johnson in the second half.

Full time: 2-2

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; George Allen (sub – Cliff Akurang 42 mins) ; Sean Francis; Callum Mc Naughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Kyle Vassell; George Sykes (sub – Harry Baker 61 mins) ; Reece Prestedge

Unused substitutes: Kyle Asante, Luke Milbourne and Ben Adams.

MAIDENHEAD UNITED: Elvijs Putnins; Curtis Ujah; Leon Solomon; Wadah Ahmidi; Mark Nisbet; Matt Ruby; Danny J Green; Adrian Clifton (sub – Daniel Brown 78 mins) ; Richard Paquette (sub – Tony Mendy 64 mins) ; Michael Malcolm; Reece Tison-Lascaris (sub – Michael Pook 78 mins) .

Unused substitutes: Tom Gilbey and Yannick Nlate.