

Saturday 19th Oct 2013

# Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Hayes & Yeading FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Hayes & Yeading 2 - 3 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 2 - 0 : Att 136

## The Skril South

A stunning second half showing by the Blues at Kingfield erased a two goal deficit at the break and enabled them to capture all three points and leapfrog over United to go back into 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Skril South table.

Stortford didn 't play all that badly before the interval and were a little unfortunate to find themselves two goals in arrears. But all that was forgotten as the Blues, firing on all cylinders and taking a firm grip of the midfield, dominated the last forty five minutes netting three goals to claim victory.

Rod Stringer had the luxury again of naming an unchanged starting eleven whilst George Sykes returned to a place on the bench.

There was little between the two sides in the early stages of the contest with Sean Francis going close following a Reece Prestedge corner and Frankie Merrifield shooting into the side netting from the left. The opening goal arrived in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute and was a jolt to the Blues who had been playing well up until then. A deep ball from the right by Charlie Wassmer into the Blues ' box seemed to carry little danger but when GEOFF MITCHELL turned George Allen and fired a low angled shot at goal it squirmed under Joe Wright 's dive and inside the near post from 15 yards ( 1-0 ).

Stortford retaliated and two minutes later should have equalised. Cliff Akurang, who was to have a fine match, won a header going up for a Johnny Herd cross with keeper Mikhael Jaimez-Ruiz. The ball dropped in front of goal and Callum McNaughton saw his shot from ten yards cleared off the line by home defender Adam Everitt. Then, soon after the half-hour mark, Sean Francis headed inches over the bar following another Reece Prestedge corner.

Johnny Herd, at the other end of the field, had to dart in quickly to tackle and deny United 's Luke Williams after that player had made a surging run down the middle but Stortford were making a number of promising attacks and when Kyle Vassell centred from the left keeper Jaimez-Ruiz was out of position and Cliff Akurang headed close past the far upright.

With the half drawing to a close United 's Jake Reid sliced a 15 yard volley wide of the target and the hosts extended their lead with a minute of normal time remaining at the end of the half. In a raid on the Hayes ' right flank an excellent through pass by Luke Williams set LOUIE SOARES on course to cut into the box and drive wide of Joe Wright into the far corner of the net ( 2-0 ).

Half-time: 2-0

The match situation at the break didn't look good for the Blues but right from the restart they pressed forward and gave the hosts few opportunities to build attacks from the midfield.

Stopper Jaimez-Ruiz pushed out an early Matt Johnson free-kick under pressure from Cliff Akurang and soon afterwards in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute Stortford reduced the deficit. As he was to do a number of times after the interval, George Allen advanced up the right flank and when the loan player's cross was tipped by Jaimez-Ruiz on to the angle of the bar and post CLIFF AKURANG pounced to head the ball over the line at the back post (2-1).

In the 58<sup>th</sup> minute United's skipper Dean Inman headed narrowly wide at the far post following a Jack Mills free-kick but this an isolated alarm for Stortford. On the hour, when another fine move provided Reece Prestedge with a run down the middle, the skipper's blistering 20 yard drive was parried out by Jaimez-Ruiz only as far as Ashley Miller and the Blues defender missed the chance by smashing the ball off target.

A Kyle Vassell 20 yard free-kick in the 66<sup>th</sup> minute just cleared the bar and then with 18 minutes left Rod Stringer added to his attacking options by bringing on George Sykes in place of Callum McNaughton.

In the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute the Blues' leading scorer almost netted an equaliser when George Allen sent a long ball up the right into the angle of the box and Vassell saw his low 18 yard shot excellently saved one handed by Jaimez-Ruiz at the expense of a corner. Stortford's equaliser came as a result of the flag-kick taken on the left by Matt Johnson. His cross over towards the far upright reached ANTHONY CHURCH who found the net via the inside of the post at close range (2-2).

Another corner, this time from the right by Reece Prestedge almost produced another goal and then the winning goal, in the 84<sup>th</sup> minute, also came from a corner. Similar to the second goal it was taken by Matt Johnson on the left and this time the ball was steered across goal by Anthony Church to REECE PRESTEDGE who headed into the net from close to the goal-line (2-3).

In the final minute of normal time substitute Nicky Symons was close to adding to the goal tally when he was narrowly wide with a shot after good work by George Sykes.

There were three minutes of stoppage time at the end and although the hosts pressed they had no chances to force an equaliser and the last action of the game saw their Frankie Merrifield send a 25 yard effort well over the bar.

Referee Andrew Laver cautioned the Blues' Anthony Church and Reece Prestedge and United's Tom Bird during the match.

Full time: 2-3

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton (sub – George Sykes 72 mins); Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Kyle Vassell (sub – Harry Baker 79 mins); Cliff Akurang (sub – Nicky Symons 86 mins); Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Kyle Asante and Ben Adams.

HAYES & YEADING UNITED: Mikhael Jaimez-Ruiz; Jack Mills (sub – Dan Burnell 85 mins); Adam Everitt; Luke Williams; Charlie Wassmer; Dean Inman; Louie Soares; Frankie Merrifield; Geoff Mitchell (sub – Allen Bossman 79 mins); Jake Reid (sub – Kameron English 68 mins); Tom Bird.

Unused substitutes: Anthony Furlonge and James Warrington.