

Saturday 7th Dec 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Staines Town FC



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Staines Town 2 - 0 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 1 - 0 : Att 230

The Skril South

The Blues returned to Skril South action at Wheatsheaf Lane looking to boost their points tally but after a promising start the Swans, with a goal in each half, consigned Stortford to defeat and a continuation of their own excellent "home" record. The story might have been very different had Matt Johnson not missed a penalty in the 8th minute and even after that Stortford had as much of the game up until the hosts took the lead shortly before the break.

Stortford, lacking penetration, rarely looked likely to get back on level terms after the interval and a disappointing performance was rounded off with Nicky Symons being dismissed for two yellow cards with twenty two minutes remaining. The result meant that the Blues for the first time after twenty competitive matches this campaign failed to find the net.

Changes to the squad were necessary with Reece Prestedge serving a one match suspension and Ashley Miller absent with a hamstring injury whilst Ben Adams was also out due to a knee injury. New signing, defender Jordan Lockie was on the bench and came on to make his debut early in the second half.

Staines' leading scorer, Louie Theophanous was narrowly wide with a long range effort past Joe Wright's left upright in the 4th minute however the Blues pressed forward straight afterwards and when Cliff Akurang chested into the path of Liam Enver-Marum the striker collided with keeper Jack Turner who managed to get an outstretched boot on the ball. Referee Paul Harris wasn't interested in the appeals for a penalty but the Match Official did point to the spot soon afterwards in the 8th minute. A run from Harry Baker cutting into the box from the left was halted by a challenge from Stephane Ngamvoulou that earned the Swans' defender a yellow card in addition to conceding a penalty. Matt Johnson, however, was off target with his spot-kick sending it wide of Turner's right-hand post.

Sean Francis was sent crashing into the perimeter wall in the 16th minute but fortunately carried on after treatment and then Theophanous tried another shot from distance that Joe Wright turned round the post for a corner. The hosts looked sharp going forward and in the 27th minute Bajram Pashaj fed Max Worsfold with a pass down the middle but he dragged his shot from the edge of the box wide of the target.

An excellent move between Cliff Akurang and Harry Baker just after the half-hour resulted in the latter having his 20 yard shot turned over the bar at full stretch by Turner. Baker had been fouled a split second before getting his shot in on goal and a free-kick was awarded that Anthony Church curled a foot over the bar.

The deadlock was broken in the 37th minute. A misplaced clearance by George Allen was collected by Max Worsfold whose direct run on goal ended with a low shot that Joe Wright saved but BAJRAM PASHAJ quickly swept the loose ball into the net

(1-0).

The Blues retaliated immediately and when a cross from the left by Harry Baker reached Tommy Fletcher towards the far post the youngster 's 15 yard deflected volley was parried away by Turner at his near upright.

Nicky Symons collected his first yellow card of the afternoon in the 41st minute following a strong challenge on Ashley Lodge and in the three minutes of added time at the end of the half Joe Wright tipped the ball over the bar from Jerel Ifill following a corner.

Half-time: 1-0

An early foul by George Allen on Bajram Pashaj resulted in the Blues ' defender being booked. Then four minutes after the re-start Pashaj slipped the ball through for Ashley Lodge to take on but Joe Wright beat away the shot and after a scramble the ball was cleared upfield. In the 51st minute Cliff Akurang linked with Anthony Church but the latter 's 23 yard volley was wide and then, two minutes later, a corner on the left from Matt Johnson caused problems for the Swans ' defence and after the ball had bounced around the six yard box stopper Jack Turner dropped on it on the goal-line.

Stortford, however, were giving up possession too easily and the midfield rarely achieved a consistent hold on the match. A run from Theophanous ended with a deflected shot from the edge of the area past the post and at the other end, in the 67th minute, with what turned out to be the Blues ' last chance to level the scores George Allen shot over the bar from 12 yards after the ball had dropped to him following a corner on the right from Matt Johnson.

A minute later Nicky Symons left the pitch after being shown his second yellow card – this following a foul on Bajram Pashaj. The ten men faced mounting pressure and Joe Wright was speedily off his line to clear the ball upfield as substitute Dan Brown chased a through pass and then Stortford were given little chance when the hosts doubled their lead in the 77th minute. Callum McNaughton gave away possession in his own half to Brown who put fellow substitute LOUIS RAE BEADLE clear to drill low and wide of Joe Wright (2-0).

Before the final whistle Wright saved bravely from Staines skipper Lewis Ferrell whilst Beadle was close with a rising effort over the bar and later the Blues ' keeper tipped away an angled attempt at goal from Brown.

Full time: 2-0

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Tommy Fletcher (sub – Jordan Lockie 51 mins); Harry Baker (sub – Josh Fagbohun 59 mins); George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Liam Enver-Marum (sub – Tom Collins 73 mins); Cliff Akurang; Nicky Symons.

Unused substitutes: Luke Milbourne and Sam Cowler.

STAINES TOWN: Jack Turner; Stephane Ngamvoulou; Jordaan Brown; Lewis Ferrell; Chris Mboungou; Jerel Ifill; Ashley Lodge; Bajram Pashaj (sub – Louis Rae Beadle 70 mins); Louie Theophanous (sub – Eivaldo Felix 90 + 7 mins); Oluwole Akin-sanya (sub – Dan Brown 61 mins); Max Worsfold.

Unused substitutes: Luke Neville and Kyle Merson.