

Saturday 30th Nov 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report

Bishop's Stortford FC

Stockport County FC



Bishop 's Stortford 5 – 2 Stockport County : HT 2 - 1

Friendly

Following on the defeat by Billericay Town at the ProKit UK Stadium two days earlier Stortford returned to winning ways by defeating Skryll North side Stockport County in an entertaining contest in the second quickly arranged friendly. Five different Blues players got on the score-sheet after the visitors had taken an early lead.

Rod Stringer's squad was similar to that which appeared against Billericay although Sean Francis, Reece Prestedge and Joe Wright, who had missed the earlier match, returned to face Stockport. Ashley Miller was not included due to an injury.

The Blues made hard work of the opening 25 minutes often putting themselves under pressure with sloppy passing when bringing the ball out of defence. They fell behind in the 9th minute. The Hatters' Kyle Jacobs struck a deflected shot from outside the area that hit the bar and striker KRISTIAN DENNIS was left with an easy chance to slot the loose rebound past Joe Wright (0-1).

Matters looked to be getting worse for Stortford and it was only thanks to the Stortford stopper that they didn't concede further goals soon afterwards. An 18 yard effort from Dennis was turned over the bar by Joe Wright and then in the 16th minute he stopped an angled shot from the same striker. The Blues' keeper then followed this with a diving full length save soon afterwards to turn the ball away for a corner following a Robert Lofthouse attempt at goal.

Stortford continued to lack cohesion going forward and Rod Stringer had obviously seen enough when he brought Cliff Akurang and Reece Prestedge into the action in the 29th minute. The changes had an effect virtually straightaway. In the 32nd minute Prestedge slipped the ball down the middle for Liam Enver-Marum, running into the box, to fasten on to but the new striker saw his low shot rebound away off keeper Ryan Jones' legs to safety.

However, the Blues were on level terms in the 34th minute when SEAN FRANCIS headed a corner from Matt Johnson on the left into the net (1-1).

County looked dangerous when they attacked and Francis was in action two minutes later to block a close range shot from Nicky Platt near the goal-line. In the 39th minute Kristian Dennis was put through down the middle but Joe Wright dashed off his line to save at the number nine's feet.

Liam Enver-Marum was narrowly wide with a shot from the edge of the box in the 42nd minute before the Blues took the lead at the start of stoppage time at the end of the half. Good work by Matt Johnson on the right was followed by a swinging centre from Harry Baker to the far post that was met by a flying header by CLIFF AKURANG and the ball found the back of the

net from a tight angle (2-1)

Half time: 2-1

The visitors replaced their entire starting eleven, apart from Kyle Jacobs, at the break and they equalised within five minutes of the restart. Iain Howard's corner on the right was met by MARK LEES who netted with a shot from close range (2-2).

Cliff Akurang wasn't quite able to control a Reece Prestedge cross from the left in front of goal but the Blues were back in front in the 56th minute. Liam Enver-Marum laid the ball back to Harry Baker who struck a great first time diagonal crossfield pass from the right and inside his own half. The pass found MATT JOHNSON in space and, as keeper Ian Ormson came off his line, the Stortford midfielder hooked the ball over him from 25 yards (3-2).

Joe Wright was quickly off his line in the 69th minute to hold the ball at the feet of Rhys Turner but Cliff Akurang was close to extending Stortford's lead nine minutes later when he headed against the bar after a Reece Prestedge corner from the right.

With the match entering its later stages Turner and Phil Jevons missed out on half chances for County and the Blues closed the contest in a flourish of two goals. In the 89th minute Luke Milbourne was tripped by a defender a couple of yards inside the right-sided angle of the box and REECE PRESTEDGE gave Ormson no chance from the penalty spot (4-2). Then in the first minute of stoppage time, in an attack on the left flank, Cliff Akurang's neat flick from a Reece Prestedge pass gave JOSH FAGBOHUN a chance to charge goalwards and he chipped the ball over the oncoming keeper from inside the box to send it into the net at the near post (5-2).

Full time: 5-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Harry Baker (sub- Ben Adams 63 mins); Andre Costa (sub – Kyle Asante 80 mins); George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton (sub - Tommy Fletcher 66 mins); Matt Johnson (sub – Archange Nkumu 80 mins); Nicky Symons (sub – Reece Prestedge 29 mins); Liam Enver-Marum (sub – Josh Fagbohun 75 mins); Tom Collins (sub – Cliff Akurang 29 mins); Anthony Church (sub- Luke Milbourne 71 mins).

STOCKPORT COUNTY: -

1st half team: Ryan Jones; Kyle Jacobs; Scott Duxbury; Nicky Platt; Adam Cowan; Kieran Charnock; Tunji Moses; Robert Lofthouse; Kristian Dennis; Adriano Moke; Ramone Blackett.

2nd half team: Ian Ormson; Kyle Jacobs; Mark Lees; Stephen O'Halloran; Phil Jevons; Tom Black; Rhys Turner; Chris Churchman; Ian Craney; Iain Howard; Alex Gardikotas.