

Tuesday 10th Dec 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Weston Super Mare FC



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Weston Super Mare 2 - 2 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 1 - 2 : Att 124

The Skril South

An equaliser in the second minute of stoppage time at the end of a controversial match denied the Blues taking maximum points in this encounter at the Woodspring Stadium. It was an entertaining game but most of the talk afterwards and the abiding memory of this clash will be the poor performance of Referee Lloyd Wood. The Match Official from the off never allowed the contest to flow and in the second half threatened to lose control of the game which was never over-physical. By the final whistle Wood had sent off one player from each side – a straight red for the Seagulls ' Jordan Walker and two yellow cards for Stortford 's Sean Francis – whilst the hosts had two other players booked and the Blues four others booked. As early as the 22nd minute there had been one dismissal and three cautions.

The question also has to be asked as to why the Football Association sent Wood, who lives in East London, all the way to the other side of Bristol for a midweek match when there must have been more local Referees available on the night. The Referee was blowing up at times for minimal contacts and at others allowing fouls to go unpunished.

The match itself had seen the Blues lead at the break by the odd goal in three – all penalties – and having a one man advantage for most of the game it seemed safe to assume that they would go on to victory. However, much credit should go to the hosts who pushed forward at every opportunity after the interval and gave the Blues defence little respite. In the end the pressure proved too much and in the 92nd minute the scores were squared.

Following on the defeat at Staines three days earlier Rod Stringer was able to bring back skipper Reece Prestedge following his one match suspension and there were recalls for Ashley Miller and Ben Adams to the starting line-up.

There were few incidents in the opening ten minutes although the Seagulls had had the slight edge in midfield. However, Stortford went one up in the 11th minute following their first dangerous attack of the evening. George Allen and Callum McNaughton were involved in the build up which took the ball out to the left where Reece Prestedge gained possession and crossed low towards the near post. Cliff Akurang was held back by defender Jordan Walker and although the ball ran across goal and Liam Enver-Marum skimmed a shot wide of the far post, Referee Wood awarded a penalty and showed a straight red card to Walker. REECE PRESTEDGE sent the spot-kick into the top corner to give keeper Lloyd Irish no chance (0-1).

Soon afterwards Weston 's dangerous Tristan Plummer was crowded out by the Blues ' defence as the striker cut in from the right and then from one of a number of corners on the Seagull 's left taken by Dayle Grubb a far post header from Dan Gregson was straight at Joe Wright and caught by the keeper.

Sean Francis collected his first booking of the night in the 22nd minute and six minutes later the Somerset side were level

after being awarded a penalty themselves. Another corner from the left from Grubb fell towards the back post and was not cleared with Ashley Miller being ruled to have handled the ball close to the line. ASHLEY KINGTON duly stepped up to net from the spot (1-1). Just after the half hour Weston stopper Lloyd Irish did well to punch away an inswinging corner on the left from Matt Johnson and the Blues retook the lead in the 36th minute from yet another penalty. Cliff Akurang sent Liam Enver-Marum into the area where central defender Jamie Laird fouled him. REECE PRESTEDGE netted his second spot-kick of the evening with a shot down the middle (1-2). Stortford were on top until the interval and three minutes later Matt Johnson found Ben Adams on the right and the defender 's low cross-cum-shot into the six yard box was excellently held by keeper Irish at full stretch. Liam Enver-Marum could have made the points safe in the 41st minute as he was put through on goal by Cliff Akurang but blazed the ball over the bar.

Half-time: 1-2

The opening seconds of the half were a sign of things to come with the Blues immediately losing possession on the restart leaving Tristan Plummer to break forward. However, his low shot from 20 yards was too close to Joe Wright who saved relatively comfortably. The Blues had a few chances in the last 45 minutes to have wrapped up the points. Nine minutes after the break a cross-field pass from George Allen found Ashley Miller in space on the left whose attempt at goal from the edge of the box was wide.

The hosts were having the better of the exchanges through playing the ball out wide and then pumping it deep into the box to stretch the Stortford defence and give Weston 's big number nine, Chas Hemmings, opportunities to get on the end of the crosses. However, the Seagulls had few clear openings apart from one in the 64th minute when Nabi Diallo played the ball into the box for Tristan Plummer to latch on to but Joe Wright characteristically dashed off his line to hold at the forward 's feet.

In the 71st minute, following an attack up the right flank, Ben Adams crossed for Reece Prestedge who saw his 12 yard header tipped over the bar by Lloyd Irish. Then, with seven minutes of normal time remaining an attack on the other wing ended with Prestedge and Miller combining for the latter crossing into the middle where Cliff Akurang just failed to make contact.

There was four minutes left when the Blues were reduced to ten men with Sean Francis being shown his second yellow card of the evening and Weston 's Nabi Diallo was also booked at the same incident. In the 90th minute Anthony Church and Cliff Akurang linked to provide a chance for Reece Prestedge but the skipper missed the chance of making sure of the points by shooting over the bar from 18 yards. There were just over five minutes of added time and in the second the hosts equalised with Alec Fiddes ' deep centre from the right being headed past Joe Wright from close range by CHAS HEMMINGS (2-2).

There was still plenty of action until the final whistle with Matt Johnson going close with a shot across the face of goal and then, at the other end, Callum McNaughton cleared the ball away from close to his goal-line after Tristan Plummer had drilled in a low acute angled effort from the right. Apart from the dismissals, the Blues had Ben Adams, Cliff Akurang, Anthony Church and Matt Johnson cautioned and the Seagulls ' booked were Chas Hemmings and Nabi Diallo.

Full time: 2-2

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ben Adams (sub – Tommy Fletcher 87 mins); Ashley Miller; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Liam Enver-Marum (sub – Tom Collins 67 mins); Cliff Akurang; Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Jordan Lockie, Harry Baker and Josh Fagbohun.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Lloyd Irish; Callum Laird; Jordan Walker; Alec Fiddes; Jamie Laird; Dan Gregson; Nabi Diallo; Dayle Grubb; Chas Hemmings; Ashley Kington (sub – Jake Harris 84 mins); Tristan Plummer.

Unused substitutes: Marc McGregor, Ollie Knowles and Bradley Ash.