

Thu 13th Mar 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report

Bishop's Stortford FC

Hayes & Yeading FC



Bishop 's Stortford 0 – 0 Hayes & Yeading : HT 0 - 0 : Att 244

The Skril South

The Blues recorded their third draw in six days when they were held to a goal-less draw by Hayes and Yeading United at the ProKit UK Stadium. The visitors, struggling to get away from the relegation zone and on a losing streak of nine matches, resolutely defended for most of the match whilst goalkeeper Mikhael Jaimez-Ruiz made several excellent saves and could be regarded as the player-of-the-match.

It was only the second time in this campaign that Stortford had failed to score and it was the first time since February 2013 – against Stalybridge Celtic – that they had been involved in a 0-0 stalemate.

Rod Stringer 's line-up gave Jordan Brown a first start whilst traffic problems meant that George Allen and Liam Enver-Marum were delayed and were not included in the squad. The visitors included Freddie Ladapo who had played a few matches on loan from Colchester United for the Blues at the start of last season.

The West London side began strongly and in the first five minutes looked sharp. Jordan Brown, coming out of defence, gave a poor pass to Patrick Cox who knocked the ball forward to Freddie Ladapo but the striker 's shot was too close to keeper Joe Lumley who saved comfortably.

Stortford then got on to the front foot and started to play with fluency. In the 11th minute Cliff Akurang was fouled by defender Ben Gerring outside the area and Brian Woodall 's free-kick just flashed past the near upright. Then, shortly afterwards, Woodall was fouled on the right edge of the box and Reece Prestedge 's free-kick resulted in the first fine save from Jaimez-Ruiz who dived to hold the ball low down. The Blues ' skipper was in action again when he supplied a cross from the left and Cliff Akurang 's diving header was wide of the target.

In the 18th minute United threatened with the menacing Luke Williams making tracks on the left touch-line and moving inside to drill the ball across the face of the goal and just wide of Joe Lumley 's far post. But the Blues were soon back down the other end and when Cliff Akurang laid the ball into Anthony Church a low shot from inside the area produced good save by the visiting stopper.

The match was played at a very fast pace but the Blues, moving the ball around with plenty of cross-field passes, had the edge on proceedings up to the interval. Callum McNaughton had to leave the pitch for a short time with a head wound. With the interval approaching, Cliff Akurang was fouled again outside the box and this time it was Matt Johnson who took the free-kick but his strike was over the bar.

Half-time: 0-0

On the resumption the pattern of play continued with the Blues having the greater share of possession but continuing to find it difficult to break down the United rearguard despite a lot of hard graft.

Three minutes after the restart a strong run and cross from the left by Jordan Brown reached the far post but Jake Hall couldn't quite get his head on the ball. Ladapo had a half chance to give his side the lead in the 51st minute following an attack involving Samir Bihmoutine and Luke Williams but his shot in space in the box was high and wide.

The only caution of the night was in the 54th minute with Jordan Brown yellow carded by Referee Chris Pollard for a foul on United's Frankie Merrifield. United's resultant free-kick was deflected away for a corner and Jack Mills' flag-kick saw Joe Lumley block away a header from Patrick Cox.

At the other end four minutes later Cliff Akurang was sent flying as United cleared a Blues attack but Referee Pollard waived play on. Then, just past the hour mark, Callum McNaughton headed a foot over from a Matt Johnson corner.

Stortford continued to construct some promising moves but the visitors went close when Cox mistimed a header in front of goal from Bihmoutine's cross from the left. Michael Richens, who had an impressive match in front of the watching Peterborough United FC Director of Football Barry Fry, hit a 20 yard effort at goal that deflected off defender Dean Inman for a corner.

Then, in the 73rd minute, Richens' cross from the right was headed out to Reece Prestedge who cracked a great volley that seemed destined for the net but Jaimez-Ruiz denied Stortford again with a fine stop pushing the ball away for a corner. The flag-kick resulted in more goalmouth action that saw Cliff Akurang foiled at close range by the United keeper and the ball bobbling around the six yard box.

Callum McNaughton, with his head bandaged, made an important block fifteen minutes from time to stop Freddie Ladapo getting in a shot at goal after Michael Richens' sloppy pass gave away possession.

Stortford's last chance to clinch maximum points from the contest came in the 84th minute as Matt Johnson's free-kick on the left fell to Reece Prestedge and the skipper's low angled shot was held by Jaimez-Ruiz by the upright.

There was three minutes of added time but there were no further chances at either end.

Full time: 0-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Lumley; Michael Richens; Jordan Brown; Jake Hall (sub – Harry Baker 83 mins); Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Brian Woodall; Cliff Akurang; Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Ryan Melaugh, Josh Fagbohun; Jordan Lockie and Ashley Miller.

HAYES & YEADING UNITED: Mikhael Jaimez-Ruiz; Jack Mills; Adam Everitt; Matty Harriott; Ben Gerring; Dean Inman; Frankie Merrifield (sub – Inih Effiong 70 mins); Luke Williams; Patrick Cox (sub – Brandon Goodship 77 mins); Freddie Ladapo; Samir Bihmoutine (sub – Kameron English 81 mins).

Unused substitutes: Ben Brown and Charlie Crowley.