

Thu 20th Mar 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Hemel Hemstead Town FC



Bishop 's Stortford 3 - 0 Hemel Hemstead Town: HT 2 - 0 : Att 96

HERTS SENIOR CUP – Semi Final

Two goals in three minutes leading up to the break and another shortly afterwards with no response ensured that the Blues beat the County Senior Cup holders relatively comfortably on a wet evening at the ProKit UK Stadium. There was a brace of goals from Josh Fagbohun – his first for the Club - with the other from Ryan Melaugh.

Both Clubs fielded teams comprising a mixture of first team regulars and squad players with a positive for the Blues, apart from the result, being the return to action after injury of Johnny Herd. The classy defender played the entire ninety minutes and put in his usual efficient performance.

The Blues looked very positive from the off and in the third minute Herd and Jake Hall combined to set up Matt Johnson to hit a blistering drive that visiting keeper Laurie Walker dived to hold. Five minutes later Harry Baker struck a 25 yard volley that Walker tipped over. Then following a break on the left with Jake Hall, Josh Fagbohun hit an angled shot across the face of the goal. There was a clear chance a minute later when Callum McNaughton won a header to set Liam Enver-Marum clear on goal. Walker made a fine save from the Blues striker and when the ball ran loose Enver-Marum's follow-up shot was narrowly wide of the far post.

It was then the Tudors' turn to have a period on the offensive with danger-man Charlie Mpi breaking on the right and his rising shot from the edge of the box whistled past the near angle of the post and bar in the 13th minute. Soon afterwards David Hutton ran at the Blues' defence and Charlie Mpi collected a deflected pass in space a few yards outside the box. However, Joe Wright hared off his line to block the ball away from Mpi but conceded a free-kick at the same time. Fortunately Daniel Talbot's dead-ball kick finished on the roof of the net.

Both sides continued to raise promising attacks. In the 23rd minute a long range attempt from Jake Hall was held by visiting keeper Laurie Walker above his head and three minutes later a reverse pass from Johnny Herd resulted in Liam Enver-Marum running goalwards but shooting wide from the edge of the box.

For a time after the half-hour point play was mainly end-to-end with the final pass letting both sides down. However, all that was to change as the interval approached with Stortford breaking the deadlock. In the 42nd minute, after an attack up the right flank involving Harry Baker and Liam Enver-Marum, the ball reached JOSH FAGBOHUN, in space, and the young striker found the back of the net from ten yards to score his first goal for Stortford (1-0).

The lead was doubled just two minutes later following an excellent long pass from skipper Matt Johnson out to the left wing.

RYAN MELAUGH gained control of the ball a few yards inside the Hemel half and then ran past a defender before hammering a swerving low shot from outside the box that beat Walker at his near upright (2-0).

Half time: 2-0

The Blues continued to call the tune on the restart. A Melaugh shot from the left scraped the far post after a good work by Harry Baker and then a Liam Enver-Marum

drive was saved by Walker at full length. Baker shot narrowly over the top but Stortford netted their third goal after 55 minutes. Ryan Melaugh caused the visiting defence problems on the left and his cross was deflected to JOSH FAGBOHUN who clinically finished with a shot from 12 yards (3-0).

Three minutes later Johnny Herd almost got his name on the score-sheet when he had a header blocked by a defender after a run and cross from Harry Baker.

Hemel substitute Kyle Connolly had a shot kept out by Joe Wright in the 67th minute whilst Charlie Mpi failed to score a consolation goal for the visitors four minutes from time when he mistimed a header in front of goal from substitute Benny Fiadzomor's cross.

Stortford saw out time easily and will meet Boreham Wood, Watford or Hitchin Town in the Final on a date to be decided.

Referee David Rock had a quiet evening with no cautions or dismissals in the tie.

Full time: 3-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Michael Richens; Johnny Herd; Matt Johnson (sub – Luke Milbourne 64 mins); George Allen; Callum McNaughton; Harry Baker; Jake Hall; Josh Fagbohun (sub – Brian Woodall 71 mins); Liam Enver-Marum; Ryan Melaugh (sub – Ashley Miller 78 mins).

Unused substitutes: Sean Francis and Anthony Church.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: Laurie Walker; Thomas Opoku; Conor Clarke; David Hutton; Danny May (sub – Benny Fiadzomor 59 mins); Kieran Murphy (sub – Kyle Connolly 46 mins); Daniel Talbot (sub – Terrell Miller 59 mins); Luke Allen; Dave Pearce; Charlie Mpi; Oliver Hawkins.

Unused substitutes: Oliver Thorne and Jordan Parkes.