

Thu 27th Mar 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Weston Super Mare FC



Bishop 's Stortford 0 – 0 Weston Super Mare: HT 0 - 0 : Att 224

The Skril South

After a barren recent few days at the ProKit UK Stadium the Blues took a point from this meeting with their West Country opponents. However, Rod Stringer 's side will look upon it as a lost chance to end their run without a win as the Seagulls were reduced to ten men midway through the first half when they had defender Dan Gregson red carded for fouling and denying Stortford newcomer Rod Young a goalscoring opportunity. Despite dominating the game possession wise after the incident the Blues were unable to claim maximum points.

The Blues boss rang the changes for this contest following the defeat to Whitehawk and brought three new players into the squad. Rod Young, on loan from Norwich City, played in a role behind Brian Woodall, whilst Sam Cutler formerly with Tilbury and Dover Athletic was in midfield. Jonathan Edwards, a forward on loan from Peterborough United, was on the bench. Ryan Melaugh came into the side for his first Skril South start as Rod Stringer rested Johnny Herd. There was no place in the squad for Josh Fagbohun or Jake Hall.

It was the Somerset side that got the first strike in at goal when, in the second minute after a corner, the ball came out to Ashley Kington whose drive from 30 yards was held by Joe Wright. But the Blues came straight back a minute later with good approach work between Rod Young and Brian Woodall leading to the ball running to Matt Johnson and the midfielder shot just past the angle of bar and post.

In the 11th minute Johnson delivered a great cross into the box from the right and Reece Prestedge 's diving header was not far off the mark. Dayle Grubb was close for Weston after a quarter-of-an-hour but the visitors were reduced to ten men in the 23rd minute. A long ball from the Stortford half found Rod Young, already proving to be a handful for the Seagulls ' defence, running clear on goal. A foot outside the box Young was fouled from behind by defender Dan Gregson and shown a red card by Referee John Busby. Brian Woodall sent the resulting free-kick over the bar.

Not unexpectedly Stortford took the initiative in midfield. There was a half chance for them in the 33rd minute as Woodall nodded on a long clearance from the Blues ' half to send Young away in the inside left channel but his attempt at goal from 18 yards was screwed wide. A minute later the Weston stopper Lloyd Irish was lucky not to concede a goal when his clearance hit Brian Woodall 's shins and rebounded over the bar.

In a rare attack by the Seagulls Ashley Kington struck the ball wide with a shot on the turn in the 39th minute but Rod Young was close to notching a debut goal a couple of minutes later with a shot from the edge of the box that Irish, diving a full stretch, saved.

Half time: 0-0

The second period was almost all one way traffic as Weston concentrated on defence and Joe Wright was hardly troubled after the restart. However chances for the Blues to go in front were limited. In the 49th minute Sean Francis was close with a 30 yard effort after the ball had come out to him following a Matt Johnson free-kick and then on the hour a cross from Rod Young on the left fell to Johnson but his goalbound attempt from just inside the box was deflected for a corner.

Another raid down the left in the 64th minute this time saw Ryan Melaugh 's cross come out to Young at the angle of the area and the loanee from Carrow Road shot narrowly past the far upright.

Matt Johnson nodded on for Brian Woodall to chase goalwards in the 74th minute but the Seagull 's stopper Lloyd Irish rushed off his line to fly-kick the ball away.

Rod Stringer made three substitutions in the space of five minutes with Jonathan Edwards, Harry Baker and Anthony Church entering the fray. Two of the substitutes nearly produced a goal in the 85th minute when a cross from the right by Baker was headed narrowly wide by Edwards. Unfortunately though, generally, the Blues could make little impression as the time ran down.

There was three minutes of stoppage time and during that period another centre from Baker resulted in a shot from Matt Johnson hitting a defender 's legs and rebounding to safety.

Apart from the dismissal of Gregson, Referee Busby also yellow carded the Blues ' Matt Johnson and Weston 's Dayle Grubb.

Full time: 0-0

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Michael Richens (sub – Harry Baker 80 mins); Ryan Melaugh; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Sam Cutler; Brian Woodall (sub – Jonathan Edwards 76 mins); Rod Young; Reece Prestedge (sub – Anthony Church 80 mins).

Unused substitutes: Jordan Brown and Ashley Miller.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Lloyd Irish; Jordan Walker (sub – Ollie Knowles 28 mins); Martin Slocombe; Brett Trowbridge; Jamie Laird; Dan Gregson; Kane Ingram; Naby Diallo, Chas Hemmings; Ashley Kington (sub – Alec Fiddes 90+2 mins); Dayle Grubb.

Unused substitutes: Callum Laird and Luke Purnell.