

Tue 25th Mar 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report

Bishop's Stortford FC

Whitehawk FC



Bishop 's Stortford 1 – 2 Whitehawk : HT 1 - 1 : Att 226

The Skril South

It was a case of the same again as Stortford slumped to their third successive Skril South defeat at the ProKit UK Stadium. The Blues lost this match after skipper Reece Prestedge had given them a 20th minute lead and they had been the better side in the first half-hour. However, the loss of striker Cliff Akurang through a hamstring injury was a key moment and after Whitehawk had levelled before the break the Brighton side went on to claim the points after a calamitous second period for the Blues which saw Anthony Church shown a straight red card.

Rod Stringer 's side did not feature Ashley Miller or Jordan Brown as George Allen, Johnny Herd and Michael Richens returned to the starting eleven.

Although keeper Joe Wright had to drop to his knees in the first minute to hold on to Kieron Forbes ' low cross from the right, Stortford soon stepped up a gear. In the 5th minute when Cliff Akurang was fouled outside the box by Tom Cadmore the free-kick taken by Johnny Herd deflected off the defensive wall for a corner on the right. From Reece Prestedge 's flag kick Sean Francis got up well to head a foot wide of the near upright.

Moving the ball upfield quickly Stortford pressed strongly and when Michael Richens crossed to the edge of the area Brian Woodall struck a volley from 18 yards out into the ground to bounce over the bar. The Hawks ' Lee Hills tried a speculative 40 yarder effort soon afterwards that wasn 't far over the top but the Blues went ahead in the 20th minute following an excellent move. A number of players were involved until Matt Johnson 's cross from the left was nodded on by Johnny Herd and REECE PRESTEDGE sent a header wide of Winterton and into the net (1-0).

On the half hour Cliff Akurang, who had been tightly marked by the visiting defenders had to be helped off suffering with a hamstring problem and was replaced by Josh Fagbohun. Whitehawk striker Danny Mills headed straight at Joe Wright from a Hills ' cross before, in the 34th minute, Josh Fagbohun had a good chance to extend Stortfords ' lead when a deflected ball through the middle was fastened on to by the youngster but keeper Chris Winterton dived to his left to push out a shot that lacked power.

Brian Woodall tried another long range effort that Winterton held on to in the 36th minute but the Blues found themselves pegged back to level terms a minute later. The Sussex side made a quick raid up Blues ' right flank and the attack was completed by Waide Fairhurst slipping the ball through for JAKE ROBINSON to advance on goal and angle a low shot past Joe Wright (1-1).

Half time: 1-1

Five minutes after the restart Stortford were very close to retaking the lead. Church and Prestedge were involved in a move on the left before the latter laid the ball into the path of Matt Johnson but the midfielder 's rising shot from 12 yards rebounded off the underside of the bar to safety.

Then, when the visitors next attacked in the 52nd minute, the Blues defence hesitated and left themselves exposed as Waide Fairhurst sent the ball into the area where Danny Mills was impeded by Joe Wright. Referee Neil Hair awarded the Hawks a penalty and issued a yellow card to the Stortford stopper. Wright, however, produced his second spot-kick save of the campaign by diving to his right to keep out Waide Fairhurst 's penalty.

Matters didn 't get any better for the Blues though. Anthony Church 's challenge on Whitehawk 's Sami El-Abd for a 50/50 ball close to the halfway line was deemed as dangerous by Referee Hair and the midfielder was issued with a red card.

The visitors, needing the points to get away from the relegation zone, now began to get a hold on the proceedings. Mills headed wide from Tommy Fraser 's cross but it was the Hawks ' number nine who scored what proved to be the winning goal in the 65th minute. The goal came about due to an attempted headed back pass from George Allen from just outside the box that fell short of Joe Wright. DANNY MILLS nipped in to chip the ball over the keeper and into the net (1-2).

Winterton dropped a Matt Johnson free-kick in the 70th minute but fortunately for the visitors ' stopper he re-gathered it at the second attempt. Rod Stringer then made a double substitution a minute later with Jake Hall and Harry Baker replacing Josh Fagbohun and George Allen.

Stortford were close to equalising in the 78th minute when a Johnny Herd cross from the left found Brian Woodall towards the near post but the striker 's drive was wide of the target. The Blues tried to muster more attacks but they had the air of being carried out with too much haste and Whitehawk 's spoiling tactics didn 't help.

The visitors, in fact nearly notched a third goal nine minutes from time when a deep cross from the left by Lee Hills found Danny Mills but Joe Wright spread himself and the striker 's shot rebounded clear.

Rod Stringer pushed Sean Francis up front but in the remaining normal time and four minutes of stoppage time the ten men Blues were unable to threaten Whitehawk who kept tight possession of the ball through to the final whistle.

Full time: 1-2

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Michael Richens; Johnny Herd; George Allen (sub – Harry Baker 71 mins); Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Brian Woodall; Cliff Akurang ((sub – Josh Fagbohun 29 mins) (sub – Jake Hall 71 mins)); Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Ryan Melaugh and Jordan Brown.

WHITEHAWK: Chris Winterton; Richard Rose; Lee Hills; Kieron Forbes; Sami El-Abd; Tom Cadman; David Da Silva (sub – Dominic Green 38 mins); Jake Robinson; Danny Mills; Waide Fairhurst (sub – Steven Smith 82 mins); Tommy Fraser.

Unused substitutes: Alex Addai, Dean McDonald and Alex Parsons.