

Sat 5th Apr 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Dover Athletic FC



Bishop 's Stortford 2 – 2 Dover Athletic : HT 1 - 1 : Att 451

The Skril South

Having dented Eastbourne Borough's "play off" aspirations two days earlier the Blues put a spanner in the works as far as Dover were concerned as well with Reece Prestedge's stoppage time penalty denying the visitors all three points.

Against the side with the best "away" record in the Skril South Stortford had unsettled their opponents with a storming start that saw them take an early lead. They could have been several goals ahead before Dover having had a penalty of their own saved by Joe Wright equalised just after the halfway stage of the first period. The Kent side had the better of the second half and took the lead with eight minutes left and looked to be taking home the points until the Stortford skipper coolly slammed in the late late spot-kick.

Rod Stringer's starting eleven showed one change with Rod Young coming back into the front line to join Brian Woodall and Ryan Melaugh dropping to the bench. Young had played over twenty minutes at Anfield the previous evening after coming on as a substitute for Norwich City under 21 side against Liverpool. The Blues made a great start to the contest and went a goal up in the 6th minute. A long kick from his area by Joe Wright was flicked on by Anthony Church into the path of BRIAN WOODALL and the striker notched his second goal in two games by shrugging off the physical challenge of a Dover defender and cracking a low left footed shot past keeper Mitchell Walker diving to his left (1-0).

Stortford then had a succession of near misses as they looked to extend their lead. In the 9th minute a move across the pitch with Church and Woodall involved finished with Rod Young firing an angled shot from the left that Walker made a fine reaction save to divert the ball out for a corner. From Matt Johnson's flag kick Reece Prestedge's near post header was deflected high up against the upright. Less than a minute later Prestedge's corner on the right produced an effort from Matt Johnson that was cleared off the goal-line by Ricky Modeste.

The blistering pace continued and when a long throw from Johnny Herd on the left dropped out to Brian Woodall out past the back stick the number nine drove his first time shot past the upright. The Whites' dangerman Ricky Modeste almost got past the Blues defence after a long throw by Dover skipper Craig Stone. But Rod Young hit back in the 14th minute when he collected a loose ball 30 yards out from goal and saw keeper Walker drop to the ground to save.

In the 20th minute there was a clash of heads when Callum McNaughton went up for the ball with Nathan Elder close to the halfway line. Both players had to receive attention with Stortford player having his head heavily bandaged not for the first time this campaign. Referee Ashvin Degnarain awarded the visitors a free-kick at the incident and when Craig Stone sent the ball into the box a penalty was awarded as Anthony Church was adjudged to have handled. However, the spot-kick taken by Moses Ademola was well saved by Joe Wright springing to his left to keep the ball out. It was the third penalty save made by

the Blues' stopper this term.

Rod Young almost found his way past keeper Walker out on the Blues' left when the loan player fastened on to a Reece Prestedge pass but he slipped at the wrong time. Athletic equalised in the 25th minute. A swift attack down the inside left channel resulted in Moses Ademola slipping the ball forward for RICKY MODESTE to latch on to and slot past the advancing Wright (1-1).

The pace of the match lessened slightly before the break although Stortford continued to have the edge. In the 36th minute Harry Baker won a ball on the right and played it through for Reece Prestedge to advance on goal and he finished with a low 25 yard strike that was narrowly wide.

Then two minutes before the interval the Blues thought they had scored again when a long throw from Matt Johnson dropped to Brian Woodall and his shot deflected into the net off of Anthony Church close to the goal-line but the midfielder was ruled to be in an offside position and the goal overruled.

Half time: 1-1

Attacking the Town end on the resumption the Blues found it hard to get the same momentum as they had had in the first half and the Stortford boss made a triple substitution just before the hour mark with Michael Richens, Cliff Akurang and Sam Cutler entering the fray in place of Harry Baker, Anthony Church and Brian Woodall. The visitors looked dangerous and when Moses Ademola pulled the ball back from the bye-line on the right in the 64th minute substitute Michael Kamara's 15 yard shot deflected off Matt Johnson on to the base of the post.

Five minutes later Tom Murphy had an effort deflected inches over the bar following a break on the left flank and from Modeste's corner Nathan Elder's near post header flew just wide. In the 74th minute Ashley Miller found Reece Prestedge in space but the skipper's angled shot was over the target and in the 82nd minute the Blues found themselves behind for the first time in the match. With Stortford mostly upfield, a long high ball into Stortford territory from Craig Stone saw MOSES ADEMOLA duel with Matt Johnson and the ball dropped kindly for the Dover striker to take it on and place a low shot wide of Joe Wright's dive from the edge of the box (1-2).

There was four minutes of stoppage time and in the third of these Stortford grabbed the equaliser. A Matt Johnson free-kick ten yards inside the Athletic half was met by a Callum McNaughton header that was deflected for a corner on the left. From Johnson's flag-kick the ball moved around the six yard box and defender Tom Wynter was seen by Referee Dagnarain as handling it. REECE PRESTEDGE gave keeper Mitchell Walker no chance with his spot-kick by smashing it high into the top right hand corner (2-2).

Stortford picked up two yellow cards during the course of the match with Reece Prestedge having his name taken in the first half and then George Allen having his taken after the break.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; George Allen; Callum McNaughton; Harry Baker (sub - Michael Richens 59 mins); Matt Johnson; Anthony Church (sub – Cliff Akurang 59 mins); Brian Woodall (sub – Sam Cutler 59 mins); Rod Young; Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Ryan Melaugh and Josh Fagbohun.

DOVER ATHLETIC: Mitchell Walker; Craig Stone; Tom Wynter; Chris Kinnear; Richard Orlu; Terrell Forbes (sub – Michael Kamara 46 mins); Ricky Modeste; Callum Davies; Nathan Elder; Moses Ademola; Tom Murphy.

Unused substitutes: Jeff Goulding, Elliott Charles, Liam Bellamy and Ricky Gabriel.