

Thu 3rd Apr 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Eastbourne Borough FC



Bishop 's Stortford 1 – 0 Eastbourne Borough : HT 1 - 0 : Att 231

The Skril South

A first half goal from Brian Woodall was enough to give the Blues their first Skril South victory in five weeks to end a ten game winless streak. Stortford were well worth their three points. Although they had netted the deciding goal in the first half there had been little between the two sides before the interval. The second period however saw Stortford well on top and if hadn't been for several excellent saves by Borough's keeper Craig Ross the winning margin would have been greater and the nerves of Blues' supporters would have been less frayed at the final whistle.

Throughout the ninety minutes the main aspect of Stortford's display was the high work rate by the entire side with the mid-field in particular running their socks off.

Rod Stringer was without Rod Young up front as the youngster was due to play for Norwich City under 21 side against Liverpool at Carrow Road the next night. This meant that Brian Woodall was in the starting line-up. Also out was Sean Francis with a side injury but Harry Baker was included whilst Cliff Akurang having recovered from his hamstring injury was on the substitutes' bench.

There were few incidents in the first 45 minutes apart from the goal. Possession was evenly matched by the sides. An early corner for the visitors from Charlie Gorman resulted in a header from Jack Deaman that flashed just wide of the near upright. Stortford won a lot of corners during the evening and from the first of these in the 21st minute Reece Prestedge's flag kick was punched clear by Borough stopper Craig Ross.

Three minutes later Sam Cole stung the fingers of Joe Wright with a drive from outside the box after the Eastbourne player had been fed with the ball by Simon Johnson. Wright finger-tipped the shot over the bar for a corner that came to nothing.

A promising attack just before the half-hour involved Reece Prestedge and Brian Woodall who set up Ryan Melaugh on the left to drill a low shot across the face of the Eastbourne goal and past the far post.

The deciding goal of the evening arrived in the 37th minute. When Ryan Melaugh was fouled on the left midway in the Borough half Matt Johnson's free-kick up towards the edge of the area was headed down by Callum McNaughton and BRIAN WOODALL smashed a 20 yard volley wide of Ross diving to his left (1-0).

Five minutes later, another dead-ball situation nearly resulted in another Stortford goal. This time a corner from Matt Johnson left travelled to the back post where Callum McNaughton's bouncing header was cleared a couple of yards from the goal-line.

Half time: 1-0

A Charlie Gorman free-kick in the opening minutes following the restart was deflected just wide but Stortford soon built up momentum after the break. In the 50th minute Matt Johnson found Harry Baker on the right and the winger crossed in to Anthony Church whose close range shot hit a defender's legs near the six yard line.

Another Prestedge corner on the right reached Church at the back stick and the header from the busy midfielder was just over. The Blues went even closer to extending their lead in the 56th minute. Johnny Herd and Reece Prestedge linked on the left and the latter centred to Brian Woodall who saw keeper Ross produce an acrobatic save to turn the 12 yard header over the top from under the bar.

Stortford continued to force a number of corners and from one of these from Prestedge on the right keeper Ross made a brilliant double save. First of all he somehow kept out Matt Johnson's strong far post header and then saved Anthony Church's close range follow up shot.

The Blues continued in control and a minute after coming on to replace Brian Woodall in the 83rd minute substitute Cliff Akurang was involved in a move with Anthony Church that almost doubled Stortford's lead. Akurang crossed low from the right and Church was denied when Ross saved a close range effort.

Skipper Reece Prestedge was narrowly wide with a drive in the 86th minute but had to hobble off injured in the four minutes of stoppage time. Towards the end of the added time the Sussex side came their closest to snatching a point when Ollie Rowe's deep cross was struck with an overhead kick just past the far post by substitute Elvis Hammond with keeper Joe Wright in no-man's land.

Eastbourne skipper Ian Simpemba collected the only caution of the night from Referee Lloyd Wood when he was shown a yellow card for a foul on Matt Johnson in the 75th minute.

Full time: 1-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; George Allen; Callum McNaughton; Harry Baker (sub - Michael Richens 74 mins); Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Brian Woodall (sub – Cliff Akurang – 83 mins); Ryan Melaugh (sub – Sam Cutler 62 mins); Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Josh Fagbohun and Rohdell Gordon.

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH: Craig Ross Jack Deaman; Sam Cole (sub – Frankie Raymond 74 mins); Matt Aldred (sub – Stacy Long 61 mins); Ian Simpemba; Adam Watts; Ollie Rowe; Charlie Gorman; Tom Derry; Darren Lok (sub - Elvis Hammond 61 mins); Simon Johnson.

Unused substitutes: Lewis Tallack and James Stinson