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Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report

Havant & Waterlooville FC

Bishop's Stortford FC



Havant & Waterlooville 2 - 0 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 2 - 0 : Att 462

The Skril South

Two goals in the first ten minutes of this match against “play-off” hopefuls Havant virtually made sure that Stortford, from an early stage, weren't going to take anything back home from Westleigh Park. Playing their 17th game in 38 days and on their fifth trip into Hampshire in 17 days, the Blues regained their composure after the early setbacks and particularly in the second half had the majority of the possession. However, Stortford's lack of a cutting edge in front of goal continues to be a hindrance.

With the matches coming thick and fast Rod Stringer made a number of changes to the side that had played at Basingstoke two days earlier. There were calls back to the ranks for Jordan Brown and Andre Costa whilst Jake Hall returned after suspension. With Jordan Brown's inclusion on the left side of defence Johnny Herd moved forward to the midfield. George Allen remained absent through injury whilst Matt Johnson, having played in all 48 previous competitive matches this campaign, was rested

Kicking up the slope in the first half Stortford conceded several early corners before, in the 4th minute, a deflected 30 yard effort from skipper Reece Prestedge was turned round a post by the Hawks' stopper Benji Buchel. The resultant corner, taken by Prestedge, nearly produced a goal as Sean Francis' close range header was a yard wide of the near post.

The hosts hit back straightaway to go ahead from a penalty. Scott Donnelly set Dennis Oli off down the right flank and when the dangerous striker cut in to just inside the right-sided angle of the box, Callum McNaughton was ruled to have fouled him by Referee Richard Hulme who awarded a spot-kick. SCOTT DONNELLY dummied Joe Wright to net the penalty (1-0).

The scoreline was doubled two minutes later after CHRISTIAN NANETTI beat two Blues defenders in a swift break in the inside left channel taking him to the edge of the area where he drove a low deflected shot past Joe Wright and into the far bottom corner of the net (2-0).

Things didn't look too bright at that stage and in the 15th minute a corner from Perry Ryan flew across the Stortford six yard box without anyone getting a touch. In addition the Blues seemed to get few decisions in their favour from Referee Hulme as they tried to find a rhythm in their moves.

The remainder of the half therefore saw Havant continue to have more of the play but with the Blues defence more assured there were very few openings with both sides being guilty of supplying an inaccurate final pass in their attacks.

Half time: 2-0

Early in the second half a Johnny Herd cross from the left was sliced for a corner by Hawks defender Pedro Monteiro but nothing materialised from the flag kick as Stortford conceded a free-kick. Then in the 49th minute Andre Costa advanced on goal to hit an ambitious shot that cleared the bar.

The hosts always looked that little more sharper when attacking and a minute later a low shot from outside the box by Nic Ciardini was a foot wide of the far post. A corner on the right taken by Ciardini in the 52nd minute resulted in a close range header from Dan Strugnell that Joe Wright caught well on his goal-line.

The Blues nearly pulled a goal back just before the hour mark after Johnny Herd had found Brian Woodall on the left and the striker 's acute angled shot flew just wide of the far upright. Woodall figured again following a foul on substitute Cliff Akurang outside the box and his free-kick was tipped away for a corner. Not long afterwards Woodall was close with a volley after being supplied with a pass from Reece Prestedge on the left.

Another shot late on from Brian Woodall was comfortably held by Hawks stopper Benji Buchel and when Woodall finished a run with a lay off to Harry Baker the substitute 's fine drive was finger-tipped for a corner by the hosts ' keeper.

In the five minutes of added time at the end of the match Buchel 's handling looked suspect as he first dropped a Prestedge corner and got away with it as he did when a Harry Baker cross evaded him at the near post.

Referee Hulme booked Blues ' Sean Francis for a foul on substitute Sahr Kabba and Havant 's Dan Strugnell for a foul on Reece Prestedge during the contest.

Full time: 2-0

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Michael Richens; Jordan Brown; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Sam Cutler; Andre Costa (sub – Josh Fagbohun 65 mins); Jake Hall (sub – Cliff Akurang 54 mins); Brian Woodall; Johnny Herd (sub – Harry Baker 82 mins); Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitute: Luke Milbourne and Ryan Melaugh.

HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE: Benji Buchel; Dan Strugnell; Daniel Blanchett; Perry Ryan; Ryan Woodford; Pedro Monteiro; Nic Ciardini (sub – Aristede Bassele 71 mins); Nigel Atangana (sub – Eddie Hutchinson 82 mins); Dennis Oli (sub – Sahr Kabba 71 mins); Christian Nanetti; Scott Donnelly.

Unused substitutes: Jake Newton and Warren Cummings.