

Sat 19th Apr 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Sutton Utd



Bishop 's Stortford 1 – 2 Sutton Utd : HT 0 - 0 : Att 755

The Skril South

Stortford's record against their opponents from Surrey in recent years had been excellent but it came to an end when the Blues conceded a late goal at the ProKit UK Stadium to allow the Us to come from behind and take maximum points. It was Sutton's first win over Stortford since November 2002 and together with it being the visitors' first victory against Stortford in Conference South it was also their first at Woodside Park/The ProKit UK Stadium.

Rod Stringer had Johnny Herd, Sam Cutler and Reece Prestedge available again after they had missed the Herts Charity Cup Final but the Blues were without the suspended George Allen and the still injured Sean Francis.

The first half was a generally dull affair with little between the two sides in the early stages. The action gradually livened up and Sutton's Dean Sinclair was narrowly wide with a drive from outside the box in the 26th minute. Then up at the Airport end, following a Blues' free-kick deep into the box, a Callum McNaughton header was only half cleared to Brian Woodall but the striker's shot from 15 yards was easily gathered by Us stopper Jason Brown.

A promising attack by the visitors on the half hour between Lee Sawyer and Dean Sinclair led to an opening for Jamie Taylor but Joe Wright held the acute angled attempt at goal.

The Blues almost took the lead in the 37th minute when, after the ball had come across from the right, Reece Prestedge seemed to be denied by a defender's boot stopping a shot from the skipper at the far post.

United skipper Damian Scannell screwed a shot wide from 23 yards in the 39th minute whilst a quickly taken free-kick by Matt Johnson a minute later enabled Michael Richens to take the ball up the right touch-line and fire in a low centre across the six yard box but no one was able to get a touch.

The Blues had a narrow escape three minutes before the break as an underhit back pass from Anthony Church was intercepted by Jamie Taylor but fortunately Joe Wright advanced quickly off his line to grab the ball at the striker's feet before he could shoot at goal.

Half time: 0-0

Taylor was again close for the visitors seven minutes after the break when he fastened on to a through pass from Gavin McCallum and after advancing on goal chipped the ball over Joe Wright and on to the roof of the net.

After combining with Johnny Herd in the 54th minute Reece Prestedge was narrowly wide with a low angled shot that was inches past the far post but just two minutes later Stortford took the lead with a penalty. Prestedge, Herd and Woodall were involved in a move that took the ball towards the middle of the area and when Sam Cutler gained possession of the ball he was fouled by Dean Sinclair. Referee Michael George pointed to the spot and REECE PRESTEDGE slammed one of his trademark penalties past keeper Brown into the top corner of the net (1-0).

A minute later Brian Woodall sent Michael Richens away on the right and taking the ball towards the near post the defender saw keeper Brown make a good save by his upright.

Events started go sour for the Blues just after the hour. Dean Sinclair, Lee Sawyer and Jamie Taylor were involved in an attack that concluded with the latter clipping the ball forward into the box where, despite being closely marked by two defenders, GAVIN McCALLUM, managed to control the ball and turn to hit a low shot into the net from 12 yards via the inside of Joe Wright's right hand post (1-1).

There then followed a period of play when there was little to choose between the sides though a powerful distance shot from Damian Scannell in the 72nd minute was tipped over the bar by Joe Wright.

It looked as though the points were going to be shared until the Surrey side won a debateable free-kick fifteen yards inside the Stortford half with one minute of normal time remaining. After Michael Richens was ruled to have fouled Scannell, Ben King's free-kick up the left towards the box stayed in Sutton's possession as Scannell and Sawyer retained the ball and with the Blues defence not reacting Michael Spillane finally sent the ball to the six yard box where substitute CRAIG DUNDAS found the net with a shot from close range off the underside of the crossbar (1-2).

There was four minutes of added time but the Blues never looked capable of producing an equaliser in that period.

Referee George brandished yellow cards at Stortford's Anthony Church and Michael Richens and Sutton's Ben King and Dammy Shitta.

Full time: 1-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Michael Richens; Johnny Herd; Ashley Miller; Callum McNaughton; Jordan Brown; Matt Johnson (sub – Harry Baker 66 mins); Sam Cutler; Brian Woodall; Anthony Church; Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Cliff Akurang, Josh Fagbohun, Luke Milbourne and Sam Cowler.

SUTTON UNITED: Jason Brown; Louis John (sub – Dammy Shitta 46 mins); Ben King; Michael Spillane; Simon Downer; Dean Sinclair; Lee Sawyer; Damian Scannell; Kane Haysman; Jamie Taylor (Marvin Williams 78 mins); Gavin McCallum (sub – Craig Dundas 78 mins).

Unused substitutes: Isaac Philpot and Tom Lovelock.