

Bishop's Stortford v Chelmsford City



Tuesday 22nd March 2011

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2, CHELMSFORD CITY 2

(BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH)

The Blues staged a magnificent comeback at Woodside Park with two late goals to take a point that, at the end of the campaign, may well prove to be crucial. Playing against near neighbours City, who were desperate to keep up with the other play-off contenders, Stortford found themselves two goals down before the hour mark but the hosts showed terrific spirit to keep going and draw level. So the Blues ended their losing run that had lasted since the first Saturday in February.

Ian Walker's side saw the return after injury of skipper Ben Bowditch but Joe O'Caruill wasn't fit so Mo Habu moved across to the central defence berth alongside Phil Anderson and Max Lette Jallow dropped back from midfield to right back.

After initial pressure from the Clarets, Stortford settled down to move the ball forward confidently and forced a number of corners. From one of these flag kicks in the 10th minute Reece Prestedge sent the ball towards the near post and Phil Anderson's header grazed the top of the crossbar. Then two minutes later a Sanchez Ming cross from the right found Reece Prestedge on the far side of the box and the midfielder's fierce drive was somehow kept out on the line by a combination of keeper Carl Pentney and a defender. In the 15th minute Ming was in action again as he shot close past the far upright with a low first time effort after robbing Matt Lock just outside the box.

The Blues continued to look the more menacing side and were calling the tune. A Prestedge free-kick was missed by Pentney at the far post and in the 38th minute a quickly taken free-kick by Prestedge on the right led to Ming taking the ball on before drilling a fierce cross shot goalwards that was beaten away by the Clarets keeper. Just before the break good work from Michael Bakare on the left saw him lay a short pass into Mitch Hahn at the angle of the area and Hahn shot across the face of the City goal.

Half time: 0-0

The visitors' boss Glenn Pennyfather had obviously had words with his team at the break as they started the second half looking very positive. They went ahead in the 53rd minute after Phil Anderson miscued a clearance skywards. The Blues defence failed to get the ball away and out of the penalty area and RICKY MODESTE pounced to unleash a powerful shot from 12 yards past Ross Kitteridge and into the roof of the net (0-1).

Worse was to follow for Stortford as City doubled their advantage 90 seconds later. Following a move up the right Wayne Gray played the ball inside and the ball deflected to substitute ALI CHAABAN who fired low past Kitteridge's dive and into the bottom corner from 20 yards (0-2). And for a period around the hour mark the Clarets looked dangerous.

But gradually a shift in the match could be detected as Stortford gained more possession and looked more aggressive going forward. In the 80th minute following a move up the left substitute Solomon Adesioye laid the ball back to Mitch Hahn and the midfielder's low drive from 20 yards was held at full length by keeper Pentney. At the other end former Blues favourite David Rainford shot over the bar from the edge of the box but Stortford reduced the arrears in the 84th minute following a fine move. Michael Bakare sent an excellent ball upfield collected by Steffan Gaisie and the substitute did well to keep the ball under pressure before releasing SANCHEZ MING who, cutting in from the right, beat a defender and looped the ball over the keeper into the far corner (1-2). This was Stortford's first goal at Woodside Park in over eight and a half hours of football . since their goal against Weston-Super-Mare on 11th January.

Referee Carl Fitch allowed four added minutes and in the second of these the Blues notched a well deserved equaliser. In a concerted move up the left flank, which cut the Chelmsford defence open, Reece Prestedge and Michael Bakare were also involved before Aiden Palmer finally passed inside to SOLOMON ADESIOYE and the striker netted from close range (2-2).

Daniel Morris, Reece Prestedge, Sanchez Ming, Max Lette Jallow and Mo Habu were booked for the Blues whilst the Claret's Ben Nunn and Ricky Modeste also collected cautions.

Full time: 2-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Ross Kitteridge; Bai Mass Lette Jallow; Aiden Palmer; Ben Bowditch (sub . Steffan Gaisie 67 mins); Mo Habu; Phil Anderson; Sanchez Ming; Reece Prestedge; Daniel Morris (sub . Solomon Adesioye 76 mins); Mitch Hahn; Michael Bakare (sub . Tom Querry 90 + 3 mins) .

Unused substitutes: Danny Francis and George Dawson.

CHELMSFORD CITY: Carl Pentney; Ben Nunn; Sam El-Abd; Adam Tann; Mark Haines; David Rainford; Matt Lock (sub . Takumi Ake 73 mins); Jordan Sanderson (sub . John Martin 65 mins); Wayne Gray; Rob Edmans (sub . Ali Chaaban 51 mins); Ricky Modeste.

Unused substitutes: Lee Boylan and Curtley Williams.

Attendance: 648