



TOOLSTATION LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday 27th January 2007

PORTISHEAD GAIN GROUND IN PROMOTION PUSH

Portishead 1-0 Westbury United

Portishead completed the double over Westbury and in the process gave themselves some ground in the push for promotion. This was Westbury's third consecutive defeat, all without scoring a goal, although they really should have got at least a point from this match. Defensively sound, they were unable to create enough chances to test the home side's own backline - but the chances they did make were good ones.

On an afternoon where the weather and pitch conditions were both perfect, Mark Mapstone wasted a chance to put Portishead ahead early on. Then a bizarre incident almost gave Westbury the lead ; Wayne Wheeler hit a poor cross from the left wing which somehow eluded Robin Moore in the home goal and the ball rebounded to safety off the crossbar.

Portishead had a spell of intense pressure with no reward, before a controversial incident occurred that could have seen Moore red carded. He raced out of his area to clear a ball that Luke Smith had played towards Wheeler, Moore's challenge on Wheeler was clumsy and he handled the ball in the process with not even a free kick given by the referee - this was to the disbelief of supporters from both sides!

Soon after, Moore made a routine save from Beales and towards half time Matt Smith's deep cross was desperately cleared by Ben Davis. As play flowed to the other end, James Clarke sent a header wide of the target and Dave Pettitt volleyed over from a corner.

The only goal of the game came straight after half time ; Davis was allowed time and space to run from his own half with the ball at his feet and, after no challenges from Westbury's midfield, he was able to pick his spot to beat Nick Evans from 20 yards.

Play became scrappy as Westbury failed to take any initiative towards trying to get a goal back until 15 minutes from the end. Wheeler broke through and, one on one with Moore, chose to roll the ball instead of rounding the keeper who was able to save comfortably. Moore was in action again deep in stoppage time when he spilled a snapshot from substitute James Eatough, the ball ran for a corner which was cleared to ensure the points were Portishead's.

TEAM - Nick Evans, Alex Poole, Luke Smith, Mark Pearce, Steve Seals, Lee Morgan,
Nick Beales, Matt Smith, Tom Staddon, Wayne Wheeler, Tarick Yachou
SUBS - Matty Bown, James Eatough, Ben Turner