



Mansfield Town Website

Match Report

Luke Leahy's stoppage-time fluke snatched the points for Sky Bet League One leaders Wycombe Wanderers in a cruel defeat for battling Mansfield Town.

Stags matched the high-flying Chairboys stride for stride in Buckinghamshire but were forced to leave empty handed when Leahy's overhit cross found the top corner, handing The Chairboys a 1-0 victory.

Manager Nigel Clough made four changes from the side that was defeated against Bristol Rovers on Saturday.

Defender Baily Cargill replaced full-back Stephen McLaughlin and a reshuffle in midfield saw Hiram Boateng, Aaron Lewis and George Maris take the places of Keanu Baccus, Stephen Quinn and Louis Reed.

Mansfield settled into the opening stages well at Adams Park against a Wycombe side who have recorded seven successive league victories.

The Chairboys created the first sight of goal on seven minutes when Ipswich Town loanee Cameron Humphreys latched on to a loose ball that broke from defender Deji Oshilaja's challenge.

The creative midfielder took fire from 20-yards, curling his effort harmlessly wide of Mansfield 'keeper Christy Pym's right post.

Wycombe forward Richard Kone, who before the start of play had the joint-highest goals per 90 minutes (0.91) in Sky Bet League One, had a great opportunity to break the deadlock five minutes later.

Stags' defender Aden Flint had to produce a fine sliding challenge to deny the prolific Ivorian from getting a strike at goal from inside the area after he was found by winger Gareth McLeary's throughball.

Seventeen minutes into the contest, forward Will Evans had the ball in the net.

An excellent Stags' move left Evans with just goalkeeper Franco Ravizzoli to beat, which he did with aplomb, before the linesman's offside flag was raised to deny the Welshman, and Mansfield, an opener.

McLeary's low cross from inside the area on 29 minutes presented Fred Onyedinma with the chance to divert the ball towards goal from close-range, but his effort landed straight into the grateful hands of Pym.

Mansfield midfielder Hiram Boateng was given the chance to unleash a half-volley from the edge of the area courtesy of Evans' unselfish lay-off moments later, however, his strike was always rising and was too high to trouble Ravizzoli.

Five minutes before half-time, Stags were unlucky not to take the lead in Buckinghamshire.

Full-back Elliott Hewitt slid a delightful low ball across the Wycombe area, however, no on-rushing player in amber and blue could make the required contact as Lucas Akins' was unable to divert the ball into the net.

In first-half stoppage time, defender Baily Cargill was shown a yellow card for bringing down the advancing Kone inside the Stags' half.

In the final seconds of the half, the ball broke to midfielder Aaron Morley to have the final effort on goal of the first period, curling into the hands of Pym from range.

Wycombe, who averaged 2.3 goals per game before tonight's encounter, came out with intent in the second-half as the Stags' defence held strong in an opening 15 minutes devoid of any real openings.

Wanderers' centre-back Joseph Low dragged Akins to ground on 71 minutes, earning himself a yellow card and Mansfield a free-kick left of centre just outside the area.

Midfielder Aaron Lewis struck the free-kick and forced Ravizzoli into a fine save low to his left before Hewitt could only steer the rebound over the bar.

The game remained goalless heading into the final 15 minutes at Adams Park with Humphries seeing another effort from range blocked by a resolute Stags defence that had limited the league's top scorers to minimal openings.

At the other end, Hewitt and substitute forward Ben Waine played a neat one-two on the edge of the area with six minutes left which resulted in the ball landing in the path of the New Zealand international inside the box.

Waine looked to test The Chairboys from a tight angle to the left but fired wide of the target at the near post.

Two minutes later, fellow substitute Stephen McLaughlin's excellent positioning denied forward Beryly Lubala from meeting midfielder Luke Leahy's header inside the six-yard box, with the Stags' defender winning a free-kick in the process for a push in the back.

Then came the decisive cruel goal In the third of four stoppage time minutes when Leahy's overhit cross landed in the top corner - under the angle - to give the home side the winning goal against the run of play.