

Matty magic sees Port return in strong fashion

MENS FIRST XI 3
WIGAN..... 1
STUART MARKLAND

AFTER the adverse weather conditions enforced a second Christmas break last weekend Southport went into this match knowing that fitness levels would be tested by a physically strong Wigan team.

The hosts started well and dominated possession during the opening exchanges.

Southport's hard work eventually paid off as they went ahead through a well taken finish at the far post from Jamie Abram.

The visitors however, posed a constant threat and some sloppy passing from Southport allowed Wigan to apply some pressure onto the home defence.

Southport knew that Wigan would start the second half strongly but a moment of magic from Matty Kennedy saw him take down an aerial ball from Nick Hale, wrong foot the defender and hammer home low past the keeper to settle the nerves.

Wigan however, did not disappoint and continued to cause problems for Southport.

The game was put to bed when Ian Beattie added the finishing touch to a fantastic counter attacking move, which started with the ball in the Southport defence.

Wigan claimed a goal back towards the end of the game, with a precise reverse finish coming of the inside of the post.

Consequently the game ended at 3-1 to the home side and provides the team with the confidence to push on and finish the second half of the sea-



● Southport Mens Hockey First XI

Angus Matheson

son strongly.

Southport Ladies First XI 2 Blackpool 0

Fresh back after the Christmas break Southport hosted bottom of the league Blackpool.

Both sides shared equal possession in the first half, passing the ball nicely around the pitch.

However, Southport were the only side that managed to capitalise upon their chances, with Sophie Goodwin taking the team into half time with a 1-0 lead.

Southport started the second half

promisingly with another goal being scored after two minutes, only for it to be disallowed for a previous foul.

Not disheartened by this Southport continued to apply the pressure, and the deadlock was broken through a converted cross by Becky Webb.

Further chances came for both sides, but on her debut Lucy Newnham managed to keep a clean sheet with the score ending 2-0.

Southport Beavers 3 Chester 0

Southport Beavers (Junior U14 Mixed hockey team) entertained

Chester.

A hard fought game was played in good weather conditions.

Despite constant Southport pressure, the first half remained goalless and although the game was played nearly entirely in the Chester half.

Following a stern team talk at half time, the deadlock was broken at a short.

The initial shot was blocked but the follow up was swept into the net.

Constant pressure continued until another goal came from open play.

The final clinching goal finally broke the back of the opposition.

The Southport goalkeeper only touched the ball once before the game ended with a 3 - 0 victory to South-

port.

The midfield four of Southport, worked hard throughout the game and produced a number of possible chances for the forward three.

The back three worked well together and snuffed out any possible chances for the Chester forwards.

This was a very good performance for the team and several of the players who are just starting out on their hockey journey were able to gain good experience.

Away Fixtures - Results Only

Men's 2 - Ormskirk 4 v Southport 3,
Ladies 2 - Longridge 15 v Southport 0,
Badgers (U16) - Chester 7 v Southport 2.



● Southport Hockey Ladies 1st XI.

Hesketh Bank give league leaders a scare but fail to hold on at Centenary Ground

BY PAUL SERGEANT

FOOTBALL

HESKETH Bank entertained League leaders Charnock Richard for their first home game of the New Year and for the first hour or so gave them a real fright before eventually losing 5-2.

Manager Evergreen had a full squad to select from apart from defender Kevin Cox for this mouth-watering fixture.

In front of a large crowd at the Centenary Sports Ground the match was played in bright winter sunshine on a decent surface considering the heavy overnight rain.

In a case of top versus bottom it was no surprise that the visitors began the game confidently and Rory McDaid was glad to see their first effort on target in the third minute clip an upright.

Gradually though Hesketh Bank began to get a grip of the midfield with Tommy Toth, Brian Mabhena and Neil Hulme working hard.

It was Hulme who got free on the left and his low cross was



● Charnock Richard's third goal against Hesketh Bank

hit home past keeper Gavin Bates from eight yards to open the scoring after 14 minutes.

This seemed to unsettle the visitors and Yves Zama in particular was causing their back-line problems every time he got hold of the ball.

The back three of skipper Tony Sergeant, Jamie Wynne and Eamon Hughes were grow-

ing in confidence, however teams such as Charnock Richard are not top of the league without good reason.

On 33 minutes veteran Andy Roberts equalised from close range heading home after a deep cross was not dealt with.

He added a second shortly before the interval to calm his team down who were appeared

perplexed with their first half performance.

The second half began with a spirited response from Hesketh Bank as they tried to force an equaliser and as is often the case a controversial moment after 56 minutes perhaps changed the final outcome.

A Charnock defender guarding a post clearly used his arm

in stopping the ball from going over the line but neither the referee nor his assistant appeared to regard this as an offence and waved play on to the dismay of the home side.

Technically this would have reduced the visitors to 10 men and a penalty would have been awarded.

Almost immediately after

Zama broke clear of the defence but as Bates came out to close him down his shot went wide.

Spurred on by keeping their lead intact the visitors scored a third in the 61st minute when the home defence failed to clear a corner and David Fisher cheekily back heeled past McDaid.

They now began to play as league leaders and further goals came in the 82nd and 85th minutes from Carl Grimshaw and David Prout respectively before Zama was brought down in the box in injury time and picked himself up to complete the scoring.

This Saturday they travel to Eagley and it would appear this is a must win fixture if they going to avoid relegation with just ten matches left to play.

Meanwhile the reserves also entertain league leaders Ladybridge this weekend but they are in second place two points behind them but with two games in hand.

Both matches kick off at 2pm.

For up to date information or the book a 3g pitch visit the website at www.hesketh-bankafc.co.uk