

Savior Seward fills his goal scoring Boots

Chris Seward scored 4 goals in a 5-2 victory for the Bedford hockey club mixed side over Boots to secure a place at the England Hockey mixed finals weekend for a second successive year.



Talismanic striker Seward who had scored 25 goals in 13 1st team games this season was brought into the squad for the quarter final showdown in Nottingham and the men also recalled Rob Tarrant and Alex Drummond. The ladies were without Rachel Jackson and the injured SJ Darrington so brought Jenna Maclaren back into the team.

Bedford enjoyed some good early spells of possession on a slow sandy pitch but found themselves a goal down when Boots first meaningful attack was dispatched at the second time of asking past Simon Dolan after a defensive mix up. This acted as a wake up call for the Bedfordshire side and they were soon back on level terms after Connie Mason won a short corner which was dispatched eventually by Seward with his initial drag flick coming back off the cross bar, and follow up strike blocked by the keeper. The third strike fortunately was unstoppable bringing Bedford back on level terms. Periods of prolonged pressure on the Boots goal followed with Dan Mason hitting the post from a short corner, Harri Kinnear firing wide at the back post after a great cross from Simba Chigwada and Chigwada himself missing a guilt edged chance to give Bedford the lead. Bedford knew at half time that they had more in the tank and manager Rob Moulam imparted some inspirational words which saw Bedford start the second half with a much high intensity to their play.

James Bilham and Katherine Winger provided increased structure to the Bedford midfield and it was Bilham who sent an inch perfect pass to goal hungry Seward who finished on his reverse from the left hand side of the circle. It wasn't long before Bedford had a two goal cushion with Seward completing his hatrick from the penalty spot.

Defensively Bedford were looking sound and with good distribution from Rob Tarrant and Dave Langley,

Bedford dominated possession. However Boots weren't going to roll over and gained a foothold back on the game when they worked the ball around Dolan and finished on the reverse putting the scores back to 3-2.

The Nottinghamshire side then enjoyed a series of short corners but the Bedford defence held firm and as the game entered it's final 10 minutes, Bedford turned on the style. Connie Mason and Alex Drummond were close to getting telling touches on a couple of Kate Costin crosses from the right before the move of the match saw Dan Mason send a massive aerial through to Seward who in turn found Costin who diverted the ball away from the keeper leaving Alyn Meredith an open goal finish.

Becky Childs and Harri Kinnear were strong and impressive for the girls at full back winning tackle after tackle and after Seward had again hit the woodwork from a corner, he scored his fourth and Bedford's fifth goal in the last minute after a pacy break involving Costin and Winger with Seward deflecting Wingers pass past the hapless Boots keeper to secured Bedford's passage to Sheffield. The draw sees Bedford face Riverside at Abbeydale Sports Park in Sheffield in the semi final to take place on the 11th June. The final or 3rd/4th placed play off is scheduled for the following day