

Leicester Match Report

From our own Junior Reporter

Daniel Wolfendale

On Saturday 18 April Southend United hosted Leicester City in a football match that could take Leicester into the Championship. Both teams needed a win because Leicester would be promoted and Southend could move 2 points from a play-off position.

Before the game I interviewed Steve Tilson and Nigel Pearson. I asked the managers "What's the key to win the game today". Steve said "I think that we need to be solid, don't win or lose the game early on and it will be crucial to have a good start although Nigel didn't give away anything he did say it would be a tough game. The next question was "What's your score prediction". Steve predicted a Southend win by 1 goal as well as Steve thinking Barrett, Devite and Clarke scoring from set pieces and Robinson, Barnard and McCormack also possible goal scorers. Nigel predicted a narrow win for either side or a draw he thought that Fryatt, Dyer and King as likely goal scorers. My prediction was a 1-0 win for Southend and Devite to score his first in a Southend shirt.

At last, the game was away at Roots Hall. There was over 10,000 people hoping to be entertained. Both teams were looking sharp early on. Both Leicester and Southend came close to scoring through Southend's Peter Clarke and Theo Robinson for Leicester Matt Fryatt, but no goals were scored in the first half.

When the second half began Southend were on top straight away with Alan McCormack having a shot/cross just going wide. Immediately after Theo Robinson hit the bar when he really should have buried it. Then it was Leicester's turn to strike back when Matt Fryatt missing from close range. It went downhill for Southend then onwards because Anthony Grant only played 4 minutes when he got stretched off the pitch with a head injury. Shortly after Leicester got a penalty for a unfortunate bounce onto Simon Francis's arm. Fryatt stepped up and hit straight down the middle when Mildenhall went to his right. The Leicester fans went mad and if the score stayed like that Leicester would be promoted. At the other end Southend went close with a header by Lee Barnard but it was straight at the keeper. The next action was a free kick for Leicester. Dyer stepped up for it and hit the cross bar to rebound for Fryatt to score his second. Southend did try to knick a consolation goal but the end result Southend 0-2 Leicester.

So Leicester City became champions of league one and a immediate return to the championship.

Match Attendance 10,089.