

## IPSWICH 3 NORWICH 2: 19 April 2009

On a sunny day, the East Anglian derby kicked off at Portman Road at 12.45pm. It was an important game for Norwich who were desperate for points to avoid relegation. Ipswich had nothing to aim for apart from 'bragging rights' and the possibility of sending their local rivals to League 1. Clearly, the North Stand had their songs ready and the crowd was at near capacity!

Norwich had a bright start with a shot from Alan Gow going just wide of Richard Wright's left-hand post. There was a lot of activity down the right hand side for the Canaries and Town fans grew nervous of the threat of a first goal to the visitors. After just 16 minutes, their fears were realised when a ball from Sammy Clingan was headed home from around the penalty spot by David Mooney into the bottom corner of the net.

Ipswich responded well, lifted by their supporters. The players rewarded the fans with a goal just 10 minutes after Norwich had gone ahead when a skilful pass from Giovanni allowed Alan Quinn to get behind the defence and finished it from a tight angle.

At 1-1 before half time it was end to end with the best chance falling to Dos Santos after some good play by Lisbie but in the end he turned down the shot and tried a pass. By this stage, Giovanni was delighting the crowds with his skill and was linking well with Counago in only his second game for Ipswich. Norwich also had good chances especially when Alan Lee beat two Town defenders but his shot was weak and went straight into Wright's gloves.

In the 34<sup>th</sup> minute, a strike from the edge of the area by Norwich youngster, Darrel Russell was superbly tipped over by the former England goalkeeper – one of many crucial saves he has made for Ipswich.

Ben Thatcher was taken off three minutes before the break after a crunching tackle and was replaced by Jaime Peters playing his first game for the first team in two years. The Canadian's first touch was a dazzling run up the left wing and he clipped the ball into Counago who missed the header from six yards out.

In the second half, Town had more drive and purpose and the crowd got behind them. Giovanni hit a shot from a tight angle and it took a great low save from Marshall to deny the Mexican winger. However, a long ball over the Norwich defence wasn't dealt with and Lisbie appeared clean through. He took the ball by Marshall but was tripped by the Norwich Number 1. The referee had no option but to give a penalty but he did not award any card to the goalkeeper to the surprise of the Ipswich fans. Santos stepped up to take the kick and struck an amazing penalty to the keeper's right hand corner after he had sent Marshall the wrong way. This was the on-loan player's second goal for Ipswich in as many games.

The Canaries had a few chances as well, for instance when Bertrand, the right back for Norwich passed the ball to Gow who crossed to Mooney who should have scored. The move was similar to Counago's chance early in the first half.

Another long ball over the Norwich defence, was flicked on by Lisbie and, substitute, Jon Stead was clean through and beautifully tucked the ball away in the corner making it 3-1 and sealing the points for Ipswich.

In the 91<sup>st</sup> minute, Norwich were awarded a soft penalty after a push from Quinn on Lee in the area, much to the displeasure of Town fans. Clingan took the penalty and although Wright guessed the right way, he had no chance of saving it.

To the delight of the Portman Road crowd, Town held on and won the game 3-2 leaving their East Anglian rivals in deep trouble.

Simon Bartlett – aged 12