

# Local Derby ends in an Albion victory against Birmingham City

West Bromwich Albion gained their victory against Birmingham City with new striker Andy Weimann on his debut game, scoring a decisive goal and earning the Baggies 3 points.

The packed-out Hawthorns made its presence known early with the crowd in full force. The Home side showed full domination on the pitch with possession of the ball sitting with the Albion for most of the first half. Both teams showed determination throughout, with numerous fouls being given to both sides. A close chance with a header from Kyle Bartley in the first half rattled the Visitors but was short lived with a determined Birmingham City wanting to return the pressure. The game came to a calming conclusion for the home team with the winning goal from Andy Weimann.

The game kicked off with a fantastic long ball from the home team's Kyle Bartley, with Birmingham City sending it out for the first throw in of the game within the first 2 minutes. A tackle on Connor Townsend by Birmingham City man Koji Miyoshi earned the Baggies the first free kick of the game. Birmingham City was the first to get within shooting distance of goal, causing discomfort for the home fans. After some elegant passes from the Baggies, a through ball to Tom Fellows was declared offside stopping the build-up for the Albion.

As play continued to build, a throw in from Jed Wallace was well received as the team began their assault on the City Goal. Jed Wallace keeping the ball in on the edge of the box lead to a cross moving goalward and being saved by City's Jay Stansfield. As play of the first half continued, a close header towards goal from Kyle Bartley was missed. Tension continued to build a foul on Stansfield by Cedric Kipre ending with medics being needed and a free kick for Birmingham City on the edge of the box. The free kick was on target but saved by goalkeeper Alex Palmer. As the first half progressed a further save from Baggies man Alex Palmer kept the home side level. A misplaced strike from Brandon Thomas-Asante left the results goalless as the first half ended.

A substitution was made by Birmingham City at the break bring Jordan James on for Alex Pritchard. The opening of the second half saw a highly determined Birmingham City heading goalwards with the blues missing the target. West Brom returned the attack with a close shot on goal from Alex Mowatt the crowd responding with an increased volume. As yellow cards were given to Birmingham City's Krystian Bielik and West Brom's Jed Wallace, both teams made some additional substitutions. Jed Wallace was replaced with Andy Weimann, who made his debut appearance, and Cedric Kipre was replaced with Nathaniel Chalobah. Birmingham City replaced Koji Miyoshi with Paik Seung-Ho. Both teams were hoping their changes would help decide the fate of the match.

Following further determination from both sides, Birmingham City provided more pressure on the Baggies hoping to make a dent in their defensive line. The crowd continued to provide further atmosphere as the game was ending. As tension grew in the Hawthorns, a late cross from Darnell Furlong from the edge of the blues box ended with Andy Weimann

punishing the visitors with a clinical shot on target. Even with an additional 7 minutes, the visitor could not claw back for a draw.

A decisive victory for the Albion leaves them looking to their next game at Portman Road against Ipswich Town, who current sits in 4<sup>th</sup> directly above West Brom in the Table. Taking the next 3 points will help close the gap to third and separate the Baggies from 6<sup>th</sup> place. As always, the Albion manager Carlos corberan readies his team for the challenges that lie ahead.