

Youan claws back a point for Hibs.

Hibs drew 2-2 with Motherwell in their final game before the winter break thanks to an Elie Youan double.

The Leith side went into the game without some key personnel due to international duty.



Despite having the bulk of possession Hibs left it late to equalise in the first minute of extra time to finish the game 2-2 in their first game of 2024.

Credit: Ian Jacobs

Martin Boyle, Lewis Miller and Rocky Bushiri were among those to drop out and in came Paul Hanlon, Rory Whittaker, Elie Youan and Christian Doidge.

Hibs started the brighter, for the first 30 minutes they were rampant, Jair Tavares was a constant threat down the left and academy graduate Whittaker was unlucky not to grab an assist after a couple of dangerous crosses.

Just before the half hour mark they finally got their reward thanks to Elie Youan, after some initial link up with Whittaker the Frenchman cut inside, beat a Motherwell defender, and finished into the bottom left-hand corner with his left foot.

Despite the home side's domination, minutes later Motherwell found themselves level, Theo Baird capitalised on a sleeping Hibs defence from a throw in and finished well past David Marshall.

The sides went into the break on level terms, with Hibs likely scratching their heads as to how.

They had put in one of their best performances of the season in the first half hour but after finally grabbing their goal and Motherwell equalising minutes after the wind had knocked out their sails.

The second half began slowly, Hibs looked like a different team from the one that had started the game and 14 minutes into the half they found themselves a goal down.

Hibs failed to clear their lines from a Motherwell free kick and after the ball pinged across their box, Bevis Mugabi got his head on it and scored past Marshall in front of the travelling away support.

The goal was checked for offside by VAR and, after a lengthy period of time, it was eventually awarded.

Motherwell sat on their lead, looking to travel home with all three points, and for a while it looked like they were going to do just that.

The away side sat deep, and Hibs failed to muster any real chances, the closest they came was through a Lewis Stevenson long range effort hitting the crossbar.

Hibs remained patient and in additional time they got their goal, after Motherwell failed to clear a cross into the box, the ball fell at Youan's feet.

His strike deflected off Motherwell goalscorer Mugabi, past the helpless Liam Kelly and into the net, to the sheer relief of the home support.

Hibs had managed to claw back a point, in a game they likely should have won, but for the second home game in a row they had failed to take their chances.

It will feel like dropped points for the side, who are now three games without a win and sitting sixth in the table heading into the winter break.



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