



Wednesday 17th August 2011

CORBY TOWN 6, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1
(BLUE SQUARE BET NORTH)

The Blues were put to the sword in their first away trip in the Blue Square Bet North campaign as they were on the wrong end of a heavy defeat inflicted at Steel Park by the impressive hosts. Stortford were on the back foot from the first whistle and found themselves confronted by a fast moving attacking unit that used the flanks to great advantage throughout the ninety minutes.

Blues' problems began just under an hour before kick-off when Nicky Eyre was informed that his wife, expecting their first baby, had begun labour contractions and therefore he travelled home immediately. This meant that Joe Wright was drafted in between the sticks and his debut was a baptism of fire. A couple of goals could be said to have been down to him and he had trouble dealing with crosses but he was poorly protected by his defence and he made several fine saves during the match to prevent the scoreline becoming even worse than it was.

From the line-up against Colwyn Bay, Ian Walker left out Max Lette Jallow and Jack Jeffries was brought in to fill the right back berth whilst Craig Calver was drafted in on the bench.

The first ever competitive match at Corby's Steel Park saw the hosts having most of the possession pile on the pressure from the start. In the 11th minute a cross from Andy Hall reached big striker Matt Rhead who worked himself into a shooting position and his angled shot was turned round the near post by Wright. Stortford's first real attack came after 18 minutes but when Michael Bakare played the ball forward to Scott Shulton an offside flag was raised.

With Stortford giving the ball away so much and losing possession it came as no real surprise when the Steelmen went ahead in the 20th minute. A deep cross from the left by Aynsley McDonald found Rhead who nodded on and, with Joe Wright caught in no man's land, JAMES OZMEN headed into the net. The Blues keeper did get some contact on the ball but it rolled over the line (1-0).

Three minutes later Rhead nudged the ball into Jordan Smith's path but Wright made an instinctive save to push away the shot. However, it was Smith who netted Corby's second goal after 25 minutes. Ozmen were involved in a raid down the middle with Steve Towers and although the latter's shot was saved by Wright JORDAN SMITH hammered the bouncing ball into the net from 15 yards (2-0).

The Blues goal was almost under constant siege at this stage but in a rare attack Ade Cole did well on the right before delivering the ball into the middle for Dwight Gayle but the host's defence cleared the danger at the near post.

The Northamptonshire side's third goal came after 34 minutes following a harsh decision for handball on Connor Essam. Hall's free-kick from the right was met by a Smith header and MATT RHEAD reacted quickly to shoot past Wright although the keeper did get a hand to the low shot (3-0).

In the 38th minute Wright turned an angled shot from Hall past the far post for a corner and then the Blues reduced the arrears two minutes later. Ade Cole slipped the ball down the middle and MICHAEL BAKARE managed to nudge it low past the advancing keeper Mackenzie and despite skipper Phil Gulliver's efforts it crossed the line (3-1).

It took only a minute, though, for the hosts to restore a three goal lead. Andy Burgess crossed deep from the left and with Stortford's defence in a mess JORDAN SMITH headed in his second goal (4-1).

Before the break Dwight Gayle was fouled thirty yards out and Scott Shulton's free-kick resulted in Mackenzie saving at the base of his right-hand upright.

Half time: 4-1

At the interval Ian Walker brought on Reece Prestedge into midfield replacing Alli Abdullahi and Stortford began the restart well. In the first minute Mackenzie came out quickly to block a shot from Michael Bakare on the edge of his box after the striker had been put clear down the middle by Shulton. Then seconds later Scott Shulton, cutting in from the left had a shot kept out by Mackenzie at his near post. and in the 48th minute a Connor Essam header from a Shulton free-kick was well saved one handed by the Corby keeper.

At the other end Wright saved well low down from Rhead and then the hosts hit Stortford with two goals in the space of three minutes. An Andy Burgess corner on the right was headed home at the far post by MATT RHEAD climbing above everyone else (5-1) and on the hour mark Andy Hall played a low pass into the path of ANDY BURGESS, coming in from the left, and his shot found the opposite corner of the net (6-1).

Surprisingly, considering what had gone on before and the fact that both keepers were kept busy until the final whistle, there were no further goals in the match

Full time: 6-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Jack Jeffries; Phil Anderson; Alli Abdullahi (sub – Reece Prestedge 46 mins); Mo Habu; Connor Essam; Ade Cole (sub – Mitch Hahn 67 mins); Dean Rance; Dwight Gayle (sub – Craig Calver 67 mins); Scott Shulton; Michael Bakare.
Unused substitutes: Junior Dadson and Alex Read.

CORBY TOWN: Chris Mackenzie; Aynsley McDonald (sub – Paul Malone 67 mins); Paul Mayo; Delroy Gordon; Phil Gulliver; James Ozmen (sub – Sam Ives 59 mins); Andy Hall; Steve Towers (sub – Leon Hibbert 62 mins); Matt Rhead; Jordan Smith; Andy Burgess.
Unused substitutes: Nick Rogan and Will Jones.

Attendance: 827