



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011

EASTWOOD TOWN 3, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 4  
(BLUE SQUARE BET NORTH)

A brace of goals netted in the space of two minutes by Dwight Gayle late in the game capped a fine second half performance by the Blues to ensure maximum points from this encounter at Eastwood's Coronation Park. The result meant a first League win on their travels this campaign and saw them leapfrog over their hosts in the Blue Square Bet North table.

This was a fully deserved victory with a showing after the break that saw the Blues very dominant. Their pace unsettled the Badgers' defence that seemed guilty at times of being too square.

Ian Walker made a few changes to the side that had lost three days earlier against Stalybridge Celtic. One change enforced was between the sticks with Joe Wright deputising for the injured Nicky Eyre. In midfield, Scott Shulton returned after injury whilst Sean Francis from Braintree Town came into the centre of defence to partner Paco Craig. There was also a starting place for Junior Dadson.

Stortford got off to a dream start as they went a goal up after just 34 seconds. Dwight Gayle flicked the ball into the path of MICHAEL BAKARE running goalwards in the inside right channel and his fierce low 25 yard drive finished in the bottom corner of the net, skimming off the outstretched arm of keeper James Severn (0-1). This was Bakare's sixth goal of the season.

The Nottinghamshire side reacted with some promising attacks at Joe Wright's goal but Stortford looked sharp with Sean Francis nearly scoring with a back post header following a corner and then Dwight Gayle was heavily challenged just inside the right side of the area after 15 minutes. However, Referee Paul Graham took no notice of the incident. In the 18<sup>th</sup> minute Ritchie Jones slipped to allow Jarrod Westcarr free on the left but the Eastwood player's shot went across the face of the goal and past the far post.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> minute Francis had a header held by keeper Severn following a cross from Gayle but a minute later the Blues found themselves back on level terms. Paul Riley slung in a free-kick from the left touchline and striker JASON BRADLEY headed past Joe Wright (1-1). The Stortford stopper had to be alert in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute as he had to hold the ball at Westcarr's feet after Bradley had headed on a ball down the middle.

The Badgers took the lead in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute when Westcarr went on a fine run down the left and crossed towards the far post for JASON BRADLEY notch his second header of the night past Joe Wright (2-1).

Stortford equalised three minutes from the break. Michael Bakare was fouled midway in the Eastwood half and near the left touchline. Scott Shulton's free-kick towards the far post resulted in under pressure keeper James Severn punching the ball against the back of PACO CRAIG's head, as they jumped together, and it rebounded into the corner of the net (2-2).

In the final minute of normal time before the interval the Blues almost grabbed another goal. Junior Dadson cutting in from the right hit a low innocuous shot that Severn fumbled and the ball hit the base of the near upright before rebounding out of danger.

Half time: 2-2

After the break the hosts lost their attacking threat as the Blues took control of affairs. Ade Cole had an early shot following the restart go wide of the far post. Then in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute Michael Bakare's

run ended with a scuffed shot that was narrowly wide of Severn's left upright when he could have made the most of other options available to him.

Just after the hour mark Michael Bakare was twice put through in as many minutes by Dwight Gayle but on each occasion Bakare's shot went wide of Severn's left hand post. There was another near miss in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute as Scott Shulton rounded off a great move with a close range shot that clipped keeper James Severn's shoulder and rebounded away.

At last, in the 84<sup>th</sup> minute, the Blues netted the goal they deserved. Following a concerted attack, a cross from substitute Mitch Hahn on the right flank went through everyone in the middle to reach Junior Dadson on the left and when Dadson swung the ball back into the middle DWIGHT GAYLE headed in from 8 yards (2-3).

Just a minute later, Stortford extended their lead. Michael Bakare slipped the ball forward for DWIGHT GAYLE to fasten on to and advancing from the left calmly slotted low past Severn into the far corner to double his tally for the match and his total so far for the season to six (2-4).

With time running out Alex Troke, for the hosts, was close with an effort from the edge of the box and then in the third minute of stoppage time Jason Bradley headed a cross from the left wing down into the path of substitute JOSH BURGE who shot past Joe Wright (3-4).

There was hardly time for any further action and when the final whistle went the few Stortford fans particularly those holding the Nottingham branch flag were able to celebrate.

Full time: 3-4

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ritchie Jones; Reece Prestedge; Scott Shulton; Sean Francis; Paco Craig; Ade Cole (sub - Mitch Hahn 72 mins); Alli Abdullahi; Dwight Gayle (sub – Steffan Gaisie 90 + 1 min); Michael Bakare; Junior Dadson.

Unused substitutes: Jack Jeffries, Bernard Quainoo and Alex Read.

EASTWOOD TOWN: James Severn; Alex Troke ; Paul Riley; Mitch Hanson; Gavin Caines; Stevie Istead; Jake Sheridan; Anthony Gregory; Jason Bradley; Jarrod Westcarr (sub – Josh Burge 72 mins); Aaron Cole.

Unused substitutes: Aaron Mitchell, Jervaise Christie, Danny Elliott and Jake Want.

Attendance: 176