



Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 5, HINCKLEY UNITED 0  
(BLUE SQUARE BET NORTH)

A first hat-trick in the Blues colours for Dwight Gayle and goals from Michael Bakare and Connor Essam set the Blues up for an excellent and welcome three points at Woodside Park. The match was virtually won by the half-hour as Stortford pulverised a weak opposition defence and were four goals up by that time. The Leicestershire side improved after the break hitting the woodwork on several occasions and missing a penalty but Stortford were easy victors by the final whistle and could have won by a greater margin had they taken advantage of a number of chances that came their way.

The last occasions that the Blues hit five or more goals in a Football Conference match at Woodside were in a 6-2 victory over Hampton & Richmond Borough on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and in a 5-0 win against Histon on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Coincidentally hat-tricks were netted in those matches as well – Greg Pearson, now with Burton Albion, against Hampton & Richmond Borough and Steve Morison, now with Norwich City, versus Histon.

For the third match running Ian Walker kept an unchanged starting eleven and for the first time this campaign his side looked very lively and up for it from the first whistle. In the second minute Michael Bakare broke clear but visiting keeper Danny Haystead, diving to his left pulled off a good save to deny the Stortford striker.

Dwight Gayle went close shortly afterwards but his name was on the scoresheet in the 9<sup>th</sup> minute when he netted the Blues first goal. A free-kick from just inside the Stortford half taken by Connor Essam found Phil Anderson on the left and his first time low cross found DWIGHT GAYLE running in towards the near post to turn the ball wide of Haystead and into the far corner of the net (1-0).

Stortford continued this great start with several raids with pace against a brittle looking defence that could have resulted in more goals. However, they didn't have to wait too long as Gayle doubled his and the Blues' tally in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute. A move down the middle between Bakare and Gayle seemed to have broken down as the former misplaced his pass 25 yards out. However, the ball ricocheted off a couple of United defenders and fell fortuitously into DWIGHT GAYLE's path and the striker calmly beat Haystead with low shot from just inside the penalty area (2-0).

Some loose defending by the Blues almost allowed the visitors to pull a goal back in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute when David Kolodynski's pass found Andre Gray but having gone round Nicky Eyre the Hinckley striker's shooting angle was too acute and Mo Habu was able to clear near the goal-line.

An error by Mark Dudley let Ade Cole off on a run down the right flank and the winger's pass inside was collected by Junior Dadson but his shot was deflected for a corner. The flag kick taken by Scott Shulton on the left in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute produced the Blues' third goal. The Hinckley defence only cleared Shulton's corner as far as CONNOR ESSAM just inside the box and although the young central defender had to run a little way to his left to get possession he wasn't closed down and his first time low shot on the turn went through and past several pairs of legs before finding net (3-0).

The fourth goal arrived only 60 seconds later. A lovely flick on just inside the Hinckley half by Dwight Gayle set up MICHAEL BAKARE on a long run goalwards. Although at one stage he appeared to almost lose possession he eventually managed to poke the ball wide of the keeper (4-0).

After the entertainment of the first half-hour it wasn't surprising that things got a little quieter and United almost reduced the arrears in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute as David Kolodynski cut in from the right flank

and drove in a shot that hit the inside of the far post. Then a minute before the break Luke Dean struck a 20 yard shot that flashed just wide of Nicky Eyre's right hand upright.

Half time: 4-0

After the interval Dean was close again with a shot saved by Eyre. In the 56<sup>th</sup> minute a long ball downfield from Mo Habu found Dwight Gayle at the left angle of the box. The young striker managed to get a looping shot just past the post but was clattered at the same time by Danny Haystead for which the keeper was booked by Referee Ashvin Degnarain.

Shortly after the hour mark the visitors should have reduced the arrears after they were awarded a penalty. Connor Essam fouled Lloyd Kerry just inside the penalty area and Kerry, himself, took the spot kick but hit the underside of the bar and substitute Jay-Lee Hodgson headed the rebound over.

In the 64<sup>th</sup> minute a poor clearance from Haystead went straight to Dwight Gayle but the loan player from Dagenham & Redbridge lost possession when trying to go round the goalkeeper and eventually Dean Rance, who had come on at the break for Scott Shulton, drove the ball wide of the target.

Another substitute, Alex Read, who had replaced Michael Bakare, flicked the ball into Junior Dadson's path on the left after 72 minutes but Haystead parried away Dadson's shot at the near post. Near misses occurred after virtually every attack at either end with Hinckley substitute Jake Holt going close and Dwight Gayle seeing Haystead save his shot in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute.

With ten minutes remaining the visitors hit the woodwork twice in the space of a minute. Firstly Lloyd Kerry hit the post with a low 25 yard effort and then, following a Kolodynski corner Luke Dean's cross towards the far post was met by Paul Lister whose effort also struck an upright. Jay-Lee Hodgson missed a chance shooting wide in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute whilst Dadson missed an opportunity at the other end after another weak clearance from Haystead.

There was two minutes time added by Referee Degnarain at the end and with the final kick of the game DWIGHT GAYLE completed his hat-trick. The Hinckley defence was again caught on the counter-attack with Alex Read crossing from the right and Gayle, although the ball was behind him, managed to drag it back to net from close range (5-0). He then quickly pounced to pick up and collect the match ball.

There was just one yellow card for Stortford and that was for skipper Reece Prestedge who was booked in the first half for dissent.

Full time: 5-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Nicky Eyre; Ritchie Jones; Phil Anderson; Scott Shulton (sub – Dean Rance 46 mins); Mo Habu; Connor Essam; Ade Cole; Reece Prestedge (sub -Alli Abdullahi 55 mins); Dwight Gayle; Michael Bakare (sub – Alex Read 70 mins); Junior Dadson.

Unused substitutes: Ben Davison and Mitch Hahn.

HINCKLEY UNITED: Danny Haystead; Rob Oddy; Mark Dudley; Luke Dean; Paul Lister; Joe Hull (sub – Ben Richards-Everton 46 mins); Andre Gray (sub – Jay-Lee Hodgson 61 mins); Lloyd Kerry; David Kolodynski; Jermaine Clarke; Danny Newton (sub – Jake Holt 73 mins).

Unused substitute: Keenen Meakin-Richards.

Attendance: 303