



Tuesday 21st February 2012

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 3, WEST HAM XI 2
(FRIENDLY)

In an entertaining contest, Rod Stringer's Stortford side produced an excellent performance to beat a West Ham XI mostly comprising of the Hammers' Development squad at Woodside Park. The Hammers did include First team squad members Frederic Piquionne, Frank Nouble and Guy Demel in their starting line-up. The Blues squad was a mixture of first team and squad players plus a couple of trialists and they came from behind to win the match. In fact it was two trialists, Jordan Watson and Jordan Pavett, who scored goals in the space of three minutes just past the hour mark to give Stortford victory. Pavett played a few games for the Blues in the 2009-10 season and has just been released by Swindon Town.

There were good performances all round from the Blues players with Paco Craig and Jack Lampe in the right back berth playing particularly well.

Stortford made a promising start and in the third minute a long ball down the middle from Sean Francis found Daniel Subuola running through the inside right channel and although forced away from goal the striker hit an angled shot that keeper Marek Stech, diving to his right, kept out. Then Ben Seymour-Shove, on work experience from Peterborough United, struck a free-kick from 30 yards on the left that Stech held high above his head.

However, the visitors went ahead in the 8th minute. Guy Demel crossed into the middle from the right and FREDERIC PIQUIONNE netted with a low shot from 15 yards (0-1). Daniel Subuola shot into the side-netting following a run goalwards in the 12th minute but Matthias Fanimó's weaving run on the left eight minutes later saw the Hammers' player hit the outside of the post with a deflected shot. Piquionne was almost on the scoresheet again when his goalbound shot was blocked after Sebby Llegett centred from the right.

After Reece Prestedge, in his first match after returning from suspension, was fouled, Seymour-Shove with another free-kick was just wide past the near upright with his effort. It was REECE PRESTEDGE who levelled for Stortford in the 29th minute from another free-kick. Matt Johnson was fouled by central defender Eoin Wearen just outside the box and Prestedge's low left footed free-kick from the right hit the inside of the far post and rebounded into the net (1-1).

Paco Craig broke forward in the 33rd minute and finished with an underhit shot that Stech was forced to turn away for a corner and with the interval nearing Stortford, territorially, were now having more of the play. The visitors lost Brian Montenegro a couple of minutes from the break when the striker had to be stretchered off with an ankle injury.

Half time: 1-1

West Ham regained the lead in the 49th minute. The goal was the result of fine solo effort from FREDERIC PIQUIONNE who cut in from the right before firing low past Jordan Archer into the far corner of the net (1-2). The West Ham scorer was substituted a few minutes later.

Reece Prestedge was close with a shot just over the bar from the edge of the box following a good move and Stortford, with accurate passing, were playing some slick football. A long ball up the right flank from Callum Stewart found Jordan Pavett but the cross from the substitute was overhit and drifted wide of the far post.

However, Stortford then struck twice in three minutes. In the 62nd minute following a move on the right Dwight Gayle fed Ricky Sappleton with a short pass into the box and although keeper Stech pushed away Sappleton's low shot the ball fell into the path of JORDAN WATSON running in from the left and the substitute netted at the far post (2-2).

Then in the 64th minute the Blues scored again to take the lead. A quickly taken long throw on the right taken by Dwight Gayle was nodded on by Reece Prestedge into the box and JORDAN PAVETT nipped in to squeeze the ball low past Stech (3-2).

Jordan Archer saved well from Elliot Lee in the 70th minute after a pass from Dom Vose had split the Blues' defence but a minute later South Korean Hyun-Jin Lee, who had only just come on to replace Matt Johnson, was involved in a move with Dwight Gayle that led to Ricky Sappleton advancing on goal only to see his shot rebound to safety off of Stech's outstretched leg.

Hyun-Jin Lee then put Sappleton through to net in the 77th minute but a flag was raised for an offside decision.

Minutes before the final whistle a surging run from Dwight Gayle nearly produced a goal whilst at the other end Stortford substitute keeper Matt Gill made a fine save although an offside decision had been given anyway.

Full time: 3-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Jordan Archer (sub – Matt Gill 82 mins); Jack Lampe (sub – Bai Mass Lette Jallow 75 mins); Sebastian Dunbar (sub – Ben Davison 77 mins); Paco Craig (sub – Reneil Sappleton 61 mins); Callum Stewart; Sean Francis; Ben Seymour-Shove (sub – Jordan Pavett 53 mins); Matt Johnson (sub – Hyun-Jin Lee 71 mins) mins); Daniel Subuola (sub – Dwight Gayle 53 mins); Reece Prestedge (sub – George Artemi 75 mins); Harry Milton (sub – Jordan Watson 46 mins).

WEST HAM XI: Marek Stech (sub – Sam Cowler 73 mins); Guy Demel (sub – Taylor Miles 12 mins); Fraser Shaw; Lamar Hurley (sub – Josh Siafa 43 mins); Eoin Wearen; Leo Chambers; Sebby Llegett; Matthias Fanimio (sub – Dom Vose 64 mins); Brian Montenegro (sub – Elliot Lee 43 mins); Frederic Piquionne (sub – Blair Turgott 53 mins); Frank Nouble (sub – Jamal Dixon 73 mins).

Attendance: 262