



Saturday 24th September 2011

WORCESTER CITY 2, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1
(BLUE SQUARE BET NORTH)

Stortford paid the price for a poor start as the hosts netted two goals early on to take the points at St George's Lane. Manager Ian Walker and Blues supporters were then left frustrated at the end of the afternoon as Stortford missed a number of chances, particularly in the second half, and had a couple of good penalty shouts turned down. The Blues, in the end, deserved a point from the contest but the only goal they scored was a late Michael Bakare effort a minute from the end of normal time.

The Stortford boss made a couple of changes with new signing Sebastian Dunbar coming in at left back. The former Ipswich Youth team player has previously played for Concord Rangers in the Ryman Premier Division this term. Junior Dadson was on the bench as was Lewis Whiteley, a teenage midfielder player on loan from Notts County.

City started strongly and were gifted an opening goal in the 5th minute. Alli Abdullahi failed to clear the ball in the box and compounded the error by fouling SIMON BROWN who got up to beat Joe Wright with the resultant penalty (1-0).

In Stortford's first real attack of the game, a minute later, City keeper James Dormand had to be quick off his line to gather a Scott Shulton cross from the right a split second before Dwight Gayle could get possession at the near post.

A Martyn Naylor free-kick to the far post in the 11th minute reached Asa Charlton whose acute angled drive was parried away by Joe Wright and eventually the loose ball was hit over the bar by Rob Elvins. Stortford's next attack saw the first of the strong calls for a penalty as Alli Abdullahi found Dwight Gayle just inside the area and the frontman went down under a challenge from defender Ryan Clarke but Referee Andy Hendley ignored the appeals.

To make matters worse the hosts went back down the other end in the 13th minute to double their lead. Naylor swung in another free-kick from near the right touchline and with the Blues defence not attacking the ball striker MIKE SYMONS was allowed to shoot home untroubled from six yards (2-0).

A long throw from Dwight Gayle caused problems for the Worcester defence and skipper Reece Prestedge's shot was cleared with keeper Dormand in no man's land. The action continued at both ends as a long range shot from Worcester substitute Danny Carey-Bertram just cleared the bar and at the other end, in the 18th minute, Gayle almost collected a headed back pass from Charlton intended for his keeper.

In the 24th minute Gayle was brought down by Charlton just outside the area and the resultant free-kick taken by Michael Bakare was punched away at the near post by Dormand. The Blues gave away other opportunities to attack the home defence in the first half by losing possession too easily.

After a quiet spell of play the Blues were close to reducing the arrears in the 38th minute. Alli Abdullahi, with a fine pass, found Dwight Gayle running into the box and keeper Dormand denied the striker by spreading himself to make an excellent block and Michael Bakare wasn't able to take advantage of the loose ball.

Carey-Bertram, with a shot on the turn, then went close for the hosts. A minute from the break Dwight Gayle was fouled outside the area by Ryan Clarke which earned the Worcester skipper a booking. Gayle, himself took the free-kick but it was narrowly wide of Dormand's left upright.

Half time: 2-0

Three minutes after the restart Stortford had another penalty appeal ignored as Michael Bakare appeared to have his shirt pulled when attempting to reach a Scott Shulton free-kick arrowed towards the near post and seconds later Reece Prestedge's angled shot was deflected across the face of the goal for a corner.

Stortford's good start to the second period continued with keeper Dormand just managing to deflect away a Sebastian Dunbar cross to the near post as Reece Prestedge ran in menacingly to challenge for the ball.

In a rare raid by City in the 56th minute Joe Wright managed to block a shot from Mike Symons at the near post as the big striker cut in from the corner flag.

Ian Walker made two substitutions within three minutes after the hour mark replacing Ade Cole with Junior Dadson and newcomer Lewis Whiteley coming on for Scott Shulton and Stortford were now getting a grip of the midfield. With twenty minutes to go a 20 yard snap-shot from Abdullahi wasn't far off target whilst Dwight Gayle missed a good chance to half the deficit in the 72nd minute. A move up the left side saw Prestedge play the ball up to Junior Dadson and the substitute's low cross into the six yard box was flicked wide of the far post by Gayle.

Stortford continued to press and Dwight Gayle then headed over from Bakare's cross from the left in the 75th minute as Stortford took control. Following Junior Dadson's corner with ten minutes left Gayle's close range effort was cleared off the goal-line by defender Martyn Naylor. An excellent move through the middle ended with Dadson shooting wide from the edge of the box in the 85th minute and with time running out Prestedge and Gayle set up Dadson again but this time his shot was well blocked away by keeper Dormand.

The ball eventually went out for a throw to the Blues on the left and Dwight Gayle's long throw found MICHAEL BAKARE via Paco Craig and he swept the ball into the bottom corner of the net from close range to register his seventh goal of the campaign (2-1). This goal came in the 89th minute and although there was four minutes of time added on at the end the Blues were unable to conjure up an equaliser.

Having been unbeaten by Worcester in six previous meetings this was the first time that Stortford had lost to the City.

Full time: 2-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ritchie Jones; Sebastian Dunbar; Scott Shulton (sub – Lewis Whiteley 64 mins); Sean Francis; Paco Craig; Ade Cole (sub – Junior Dadson 62 mins); Reece Prestedge; Dwight Gayle; Michael Bakare; Alli Abdullahi.

Unused substitutes: Alex Read, Steffan Gaisie and Jack Jeffries.

WORCESTER CITY: James Dormand; Martyn Naylor; Asa Charlton; Tom Thorley; Jacob Rowe; Ryan Clarke; Rob Elvins; Kevin O'Connor (sub – Emeka Nwadike 87 mins); Mike Symons; Matt Birley; Simon Brown (sub – Danny Carey-Bertram 14 mins (sub – Marc McGregor 83 mins)).

Unused substitutes: Lee Ayres and Matt Sargeant.

Attendance: 696