



Saturday 12th November 2011

SOLIHULL MOORS 3, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1
(BLUE SQUARE BET NORTH)

Two goals in the first 15 minutes at Damson Park set the Blues on course for another away defeat as the improving hosts stamped their authority on this contest at an early stage and gave Stortford few opportunities to recover from a disastrous start.

The Blues looked a pale shadow of the team that had played well the previous Saturday against Gainsborough Trinity and against Watford in midweek. Except for a change in goal the team was unchanged but from the first whistle they lacked confidence and cohesion and the standard of passing by the Blues were generally poor. Stortford also finished the match with ten men with Scott Shulton being sent off in the 72nd minute for two yellow cards.

The change in between the posts saw Louis Godwin-Green deputise for the injured Jordan Archer who in any case had been called up for the Scotland under 21 squad. Godwin-Green was previously with Great Waking Rovers and Chatham Town and was a late signing before the match. Although Sean Francis had a header held by Moors keeper Jasbir Singh in the 4th minute following a Sebastian Dunbar free-kick on the left it was an uncomfortable start for the debutant Stortford keeper as a minute later he had to pick the ball out of the net. Michael Blackwood broke down the left flank and crossed towards the far post where RICHARD WALKER, in space, headed into the opposite bottom corner (1-0).

Blackwood gave Ritchie Jones more problems shortly afterwards but this time the Solihull player's cross came to nothing. In the 10th minute Scott Shulton's free-kick from the halfway line found Paco Craig and the midfielder's back header was collected by Dwight Gayle whose shot on the turn from the edge of the area was pushed out for a corner by Singh. Then when Gayle won a free-kick, Sebastian Dunbar's drive at goal came off Singh and a post for a corner.

The promise for Stortford was short-lived though as the hosts doubled their lead in the 15th minute. Their second goal was similar to the first in the build-up play but this time it was Dominic Langdon's cross from the left and a near post header from JUNIOR ENGLISH found the net via the underside of the bar and a rebound off of the back of the diving Godwin-Green (2-0).

Moors continued to have the edge and striker Lee Morris almost got into a shooting position before the Blues defence hurriedly cleared the ball from danger. Then in the 37th minute, following Stortford's best move before the break, Scott Shulton and Dwight Gayle linked in a move across the edge of the box before Daniel Subuola's low shot was saved by Singh low to his left.

The hosts, though, never looked far from adding to their account and in the 39th minute Godwin-Green's failed attempt to reach a cross resulted in Moors' Stuart Pierpoint's overhead kick being cleared close to the goal-line at the far post by Sean Francis at the expense of a corner.

Half time: 2-0

Blackwood again gave Ritchie Jones problems two minutes after the restart and his cross to the back post was met by Richard Walker whose low angled shot from close range was well kept out by Godwin-Green. Soon afterwards Scott Shulton picked up his first booking after an altercation with Solihull's Lee Morris.

Moors keeper Jasbir Singh was in action holding on to Gayle cross from the left and then the keeper held on to a deflected shot from Daniel Subuola. On the hour, Dwight Gayle's free-kick, after a foul on Subuola by Danny Spencer 20 yards out, found a gap in the defensive wall but Singh held on to the ball low down.

The Blues found themselves three down after 68 minutes following slack defensive work. After a Solihull throw-in on the left, MICHAEL BLACKWOOD played a one-two with Richard Walker before cutting in towards goal and drilling a low shot past Godwin-Green (3-0).

Four minutes later Stortford were down to ten men as Scott Shulton was shown a second yellow card, this time for dissent. This means the Stortford midfielder will receive a one match ban and will miss the FA Trophy tie with Tonbridge Angels.

In fact being a man down seemed to ignite the Blues and they had the better of the proceedings in the remaining minutes. They pulled a goal back from the penalty spot in the 79th minute when Dwight Gayle was fouled over on the right side of the box. DWIGHT GAYLE took the spot kick himself and gave Singh no chance as he cracked the ball into the bottom corner wide of the keeper's dive (3-1).

A minute later the young striker hit a long range angled shot from the right that whistled just wide of the far post and this was quickly followed by a 25 yard effort that was saved by Singh low down to the keeper's left.

More late attacks saw Sebastian Dunbar's free-kick in the 89th minute give Singh problems at his near post leading him to concede a corner. Then in the five minutes of stoppage time added on at the conclusion of the match, Sean Francis advanced upfield with the ball before supplying Dwight Gayle and on this occasion Singh parried away a 20 yard shot from the Stortford number nine. Finally, Jack Jeffries had a shot held by the Moors keeper.

Apart from the two yellow cards shown to Scott Shulton, Referee Steven Plane also booked Blues skipper Reece Prestedge and the hosts' Phil Midworth, Lee Morris, Danny Spencer and Stuart Pierpoint.

Full time: 3-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Louis Godwin-Green; Ritchie Jones; Sebastian Dunbar; Paco Craig; Jack Jeffries; Sean Francis; Lewis Whiteley (sub – Junior Dadson 62 mins); Reece Prestedge; Dwight Gayle; Scott Shulton; Daniel Subuola (sub – Alli Abdullahi 74 mins).
Unused substitutes: Phil Anderson, Steffan Gaisie and Matt Gill.

SOLIHULL MOORS: Jasbir Singh; Phil Midworth; Dominic Langdon; Jordan Fitzpatrick (sub – James McPike 74 mins); Stuart Pierpoint; Danny Spencer; John-Joe Melligan (sub – Simon Johnson 64 mins); Junior English (sub – Gavin Hurren 71 mins); Richard Walker; Lee Morris; Michael Blackwood.
Unused substitutes: Karl Broadhurst and Andre Francis

Attendance: 260