

Saturday 20th September 2014

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 3, WHITEHAWK 1
(VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)

The Blues came from a goal down to clinch their first Conference South victory on home soil since early April and the three points came thanks to a strong second half performance that saw Stortford worthy winners at the final whistle. In fact it was only the third league win for the Blues at the ProKit UK Stadium since the turn of the year.

Despite falling behind early on Stortford looked confident and positive for much of the contest and certainly after the break had a grip on the midfield to cause the visitors plenty of problems with some excellent approach work.

Rod Stringer made a change between the posts with David Gregory, a new three month loan signing from Crystal Palace, replacing Joe Wright who dropped to the bench. Other changes to the starting eleven were the return of Mikel Suarez and Spencer McCall with Rod Young and George Sykes amongst the substitutes.

The Hawks went a goal up in the 9th minute from a well rehearsed free-kick routine. John-Paul Kissock's low free-kick into the box was diverted by Ahmed Abdulla into the path of **JAKE ROBINSON** bearing in from the right flank and finishing with a shot wide of debutant David Gregory (0-1).

The Brighton side's lead only lasted six minutes however. A typical surging run down the middle from Sheldon Sellears split the Whitehawk defence and created space for the midfielder to find **MIKEL SUAREZ** coming in from the right and the striker beat keeper John Sullivan with a low angled shot that buried itself in the far bottom corner (1-1).

Ryan Auger went close with a clever first time shot that curled across the face of the goal and inched past an upright. At the other end the Blues had a narrow escape in the 28th minute as Sam Deering threaded a pass down the middle and with the Stortford defence waited for an offside decision that didn't materialise Sahr Kabba ran clear but fortunately his shot past Gregory went the wrong side of the post and the Blues survived.

After the half hour point Stortford hit a good spell. In the 33rd minute skipper Anthony Church released Sheldon Sellears on the right and his shot was saved at the expense of a corner by Whitehawk stopper Sullivan. Five minutes later a Sellears' free-kick from the left was deflected across the goal for a corner and then right on half time a fine attack involving

Spencer McCall and Johnny Herd on the left ended with the latter crossing low and a stretching Anthony Church saw his shot saved by the near post by Sullivan.

Half time: 1-1

Although there was little action in or around both penalty boxes in the first fifteen minutes of the second half Stortford looked to have the edge and they made this count in the 61st minute with a goal to take the lead. After an initial attack on the right flank the ball found its way over to Johnny Herd towards the far post. The defender seemed to mishit a shot at goal but Mikel Suarez deflected the ball goalwards and **ASHLEY MILLER** turned it into the net from close range (2-1).

An attacking spell by the visitors around the midway stage of the half saw a Sahr Kabba acute angled shot diverted by David Gregory's legs for a corner and then striker Danny Mills shot over the bar from close range following another corner from Pa Saikou Kujabi.

Stortford made sure of the points in the 74th minute. An excellent move on the left again involving Spencer McCall and Johnny Herd concluded with Herd crossing low and **RYAN AUGER** guiding the ball into the net at the near post (3-1).

After the third goal the Blues continued to put together some promising attacks with excellent approach work and three minutes from time substitute George Sykes hit a piledriver that Sullivan kept out.

Referee Ian Rathbone showed no cards during the afternoon.

Full time: 3-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: David Gregory; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; Joe Tabiri; George Allen; Danny Fitzsimons; Ryan Auger; Anthony Church; Mikel Suarez (sub – George Sykes 82 mins); Spencer McCall; Sheldon Sellears (sub – Ryan Melaugh 89 mins).

Unused substitutes: Phil Anderson, Rod Young and Joe Wright.

WHITEHAWK: John Sullivan; Jake Robinson (sub – Sergio Makofu 60 mins); Pa Saikou Kujabi; Callum Driver; Osei Sankofa; Lee Hills; Sam Deering; Ahmed Abdulla; Sahr Kabba; Danny Mills (sub – Matthew Barnes-Homer 80 mins); John Paul-Kissock.

Unused substitutes: Frantz Tchonang and Charlie Crowley.

Attendance: 318