

Saturday 4th October 2014

HAYES & YEADING UNITED 2, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1
(VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)

Stortford suffered their second 2-1 reversal of the week - this time it was the Conference South fixture at United's shared ground with Maidenhead United. Another defensive error cost the Blues dearly in a match that they were unlucky not to have at least come away with a point. That they didn't was in part down to two excellent late saves by Calum Kitscha the home keeper who had a couple of games with the Blues' second string a few years ago and was recently called up for the England C squad for a match versus Turkey..

They certainly played better than in the FA Cup defeat four days earlier at Tooting and some of the Blues approach work especially in the first half was very good. Rod Stringer's starting eleven had Joe Wright between the sticks as David Gregory was unwell and Spencer McCall and Ryan Melaugh were in the side for the kick-off. Scott Shulton returning for a third spell with the Club was on the bench and came on for the last half hour.

As well as Calum Kitscha the hosts had amongst their starters former Blues loan players De'Reece Vanderhyde and Tom Collins.

Kicking up the slope at York Road in the first half the Blues made a promising start with Ryan Melaugh prominent with runs on the left flank. In the 3rd minute after advancing up the wing his cross found Ashley Miller over towards the far side of the area but the former Hammers player's shot was someway off target, Then when a long diagonal pass from George Allen from left to right found Melaugh and Johnny Herd they combined but the former's cross in towards the six yard box evaded any Stortford players.

The Blues went a goal down in the 9th minute following a corner on the right by Dan Wishart. The ball was headed away to the far side by Danny Fitzsimons but was retrieved by Louis-Rae Beadle whose cross was collected again by **DAN WISHART**. The winger then cut inside and unleashed a powerful low shot from just inside the area and the ball caught a strong deflection off of Johnny Herd before fizzing past Fitzsimons and Joe Wright and inside the near upright (1-0).

Stortford were back on level terms within two minutes. There was good work by Mikel Suarez advancing from the right before finding Johnny Herd in space on the left. Herd advanced and when his goalbound shot was blocked by defender Matt Ruby the ball rebounded to Ryan Melaugh

whose 15 yard effort was cleared off the goal-line by Adam Everitt. The third attempt at goal was from Suarez and this time it was successful with the Spaniard's effort being diverted into the net by **ASHLEY MILLER** (1-1).

Following the equaliser Stortford had a good spell of play with some excellent inter-passing. Johnny Herd featured finding some space on the left to get forward. It was another cross from him that saw Anthony Church mistime a shot near goal. Shortly afterwards a Ryan Auger free-kick from the right reached George Allen at the far post but his header was held under the bar by Kitscha.

Herd was also narrowly over with a drive from outside the box and it came as a surprise when Stortford went behind again in the 26th minute. There seemed no apparent danger when United's Adam Everitt, on the left, sent a long ball into the Blues' half for **TOM COLLINS** to chase towards the near post and collect. The striker appeared covered by Danny Fitzsimons but he cut back and across the Blues defender and Joe Wright who had come off his line to stroke the ball into an empty net from eight yards (2-1).

The visitors nearly fell further behind on the half hour after a quick break upfield and when Pat Cox crossed in from the right Tom Collin's close range shot hit the bar and rebounded clear.

Half time: 2-1

In the opening minute of the restart only a timely tackle by Johnny Herd stopped Collins in his tracks as he posed a threat on the edge of the box.

However, the Blues came back strongly and with the hour mark approaching forced three successive corners. United's Cox had a shot held by Joe Wright in the 58th minute and a few minutes later Rod Stringer made a double substitution with Scott Shulton and Sheldon Sellaars replacing Ryan Melaugh and Ryan Auger.

Ashley Miller wasn't far off target with a drive from the edge of the area in the 66th minute whilst United's Louis-Rae Beadle was close with a deflected attempt at goal after a break upfield led by skipper Matty Harriott.

Near misses at both ends continued with Anthony Church, in the 71st minute, having a shot blocked and then putting the rebound over the top after good approach work by Sheldon Sellaars whilst two minutes later Dan Wishart was denied by Joe Wright at the expense of a corner after the United player had cut in for goal from the left.

In the 75th minute Mikel Suarez headed on a long clearance downfield by Joe Wright into the path of Sheldon Sellears but the substitute's shot from the edge of the area lacked power and the diving Kitscha saved comfortably.

The closing period of the match was all about the host's keeper producing outstanding saves to stop Stortford taking at least a point home. In the 86th minute Scott Shulton found Sellears on the left and when a deep centre came over towards the far post George Allen's header from ten yards looked destined for the net but the stopper threw himself full length to his right to turn the ball away. Then in the final minute of normal time substitute Rod Young struck a low shot from outside the box that Kitscha saved again dropping to his right and no one could force the loose ball home.

There were no cautions to Bishop's players during the afternoon's action although Referee John Busby did book United's Adam Everitt and Affy Obafemi

Full time: 2-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; Joe Tabiri; George Allen, Danny Fitzsimons; Ryan Auger (sub – Sheldon Sellears 61 mins); Anthony Church; Mikel Suarez (sub – Rod Young 76 mins); Spencer McCall; Ryan Melaugh (sub – Scott Shulton 61 mins).
Unused substitutes: George Sykes and Phil Anderson.

HAYES AND YEADING UNITED: Calum Kitscha; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Adam Everitt; Matty Harriott; Matt Ruby; Dean Inman; Ashleigh Artwell; Louis-Rae Beadle (sub – Chimdi Akubuine 77 mins); Pat Cox; Tom Collins (sub – Affy Obafemi 70 mins); Dan Wishart (sub – Rhys Murrell-Williamson 85 mins).
Unused substitutes: Gary MacDonald and Delroy Preddie.

Attendance: 192