

## TRURO CITY 0, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1 (VANARAMA NATIONAL SOUTH)

The Blues marked the longest ever journey for a competitive match in their history with a convincing victory at Treyew Road. The three points were won with a stunning goal by Elliott Buchanan shortly after the break and it capped a very positive Stortford display from the off that had the Cornish opponents second best for long periods.

The success, bringing to an end a spell of only one point from three matches, was very much down to a team display but several players had outstanding matches. Kenzer Lee, switching across to the centre of defence with Adam Bailey-Dennis out injured, and George Allen cancelled out the threat of the City strikers whilst Sheldon Sellears and Mason Walsh with their runs from wide positions were a danger to the hosts' defence all afternoon. In midfield skipper Anthony Church leading by example and Frankie Merrifield gave one hundred per cent.

Rod Stringer had to make a late change to his starting line-up as Michael Thalassitis was slightly injured in the pre-match warm-up and Mikel Suarez, recovered from eye problem, replaced him.

Stortford played in a confident fashion from the first whistle. In the third minute a snap shot from outside the box by Suarez wasn't far off target and then Merrifield played the ball through the middle for Buchanan but the marksman just failed to control the ball and stopper Martin Rice gathered.

The one early scare for the Blues came in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute when Tom Lovelock didn't hold on to the ball from Shane White's right wing corner and it ended in the net however Referee Samuel Allison ruled that the Stortford stopper had been pushed in the back and awarded the visitors a free-kick. A couple of minutes later Lovelock held on to a shot on the turn from skipper Jake Ash but Stortford were imposing themselves on the contest and should have had a two goal lead by the interval.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> minute a long throw by Johnny Herd on the left was nodded on by Suarez and Sellears' close range header was excellently saved by Rice dropping to his right. Two minutes later Sellears was denied again by a Rice save after Walsh's surging run.

Just past the mid-point of the half another Walsh run ended with the on-loan player squaring the ball low across the six yard box with no one getting a final touch. Then in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute Walsh crossed from the left and Sellears volleyed first time over the bar from the edge of the box. In the final minute of the half another long throw from Herd bobbled in and around the box until Sellears blasted in a low effort from 18 yards that beat Rice but centre back Rob Farkins cleared off the goal-line.

The overhead conditions were so damp and gloomy that the floodlights were switched on at the start of the second half and within a few minutes of the restart Stortford were ahead. Johnny Herd with a pass up the left flank found Elliott Buchanan in space and the in-form striker took the ball

on before sending a dipping strike from near the angle of the box over Rice to clip the underside of the bar on its way to hit the back of the net. It was Buchanan's sixth goal of the campaign so far.

Action was coming thick and fast with City striker Matt Wright's low shot held by Rice and at the other end Sellears' angled attempt saved by the diving home keeper. Coming up to the hour mark Truro came their closest to equalising when Aaron Dawson's corner was headed goalwards by Wright but the ball rebounded off Johnny Herd's knees standing on the goal-line by the far post.

There was more pressure from the White Tigers but they were almost caught on the break by another Mason Walsh run that ended with a cut in towards the middle and a deflected shot that Rice saved diving to his left. The hosts made a double substitution and then when Suarez was injured challenging for the ball in midfield Thalassitis replaced the Spaniard. Stortford looking to double their lead had headers from Church and Thalassitis go close. Truro substitute Ashley Yeoman was almost on target but City had little penetration and were predictable in their methods with a direct approach typified by a number of free-kicks in his own half that keeper Rice drove deep into the Blues' box. All this was easy meat and drink to the Stortford defence. In the final minute of normal time Truro number nine Matt Wright could have done better with a header over the top from Ryan Brett's deep cross. The last kick of the contest saw Michael Thalassitis have a shot held under the bar by Rice. De'Reece Vanderhyde and George Allen were shown yellow cards in the second half and Truro's Aaron Dawson Shane Krac and Connor Riley-Lowe were also booked during the match.

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#### TEAM INFO AND MATCH DETAILS:

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD:** Tom Lovelock; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Johnny Herd; Frankie Merrifield; Kenzer Lee; George Allen; Sheldon Sellears (Kieran Bywater 77); Anthony Church; Mikel Suarez (Michael Thalassitis 64); Elliott Buchanan; Mason Walsh (Josh Ekim 82).  
Unused substitutes: Christian Smith and Dymon Labonne

**TRURO CITY:** Martin Rice; Shane White; Connor Riley-Lowe; Jake Ash (Dan Green 61); Rob Farkins; Ed Palmer; Aaron Dawson; Shane Krac (Cody Cooke 73); Matt Wright; Isaac Vassell (Ashley Yeoman 61); Ryan Brett.  
Unused substitutes: Arran Pugh and Tom McHale.

Half time: 0-1

Goalscorers: Elliott Buchanan (Bishop's Stortford) 52

Referee: Mr Samuel Allison

Attendance: 491