

## BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0, WESTON SUPER MARE 1 (VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH)

It was a disappointing display by the Blues at the ProKit (UK) Stadium as the Seagulls built on their point gained at Bath on Monday by recording their first win of the season when beating a listless Stortford side. Playing possession football and giving little away at the back the visitors fully deserved their victory with Scott Wilson netting the solitary goal just before the break.

It was a disjointed showing from the hosts who threatened rarely and whose passing was again inaccurate and sloppy. Stortford probably weren't helped by the fact that Rod Stringer had to make a number of changes.

There was a new pairing in the centre of defence with George Allen serving a one match suspension and Kenzer Lee still out with a hip problem so that Adam Bailey-Dennis was alongside Anthony Furlonge who was playing his first competitive match of the season. Frankie Merrifield was in the starting line-up with Kieran Bywater unavailable. Matty Fanimmo was also in the starting eleven whilst Christian Smith and Mason Walsh were on the bench alongside new signing Duncan Culley. After a quiet start Fanimmo almost put Stortford ahead after eight minutes but Weston stopper Luke Purnell left his line quickly to block. Then newcomer Culley replaced Michael Thalassitis after 15 minutes when the striker hobbled off with a hamstring injury. For the visitors Clayton Fortune was close with a near post header over the bar in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute following Dayle Grubb's corner.

Leading marksman Elliott Buchanan, who was presented with the Vanarama National League South Player of the Month Award for August, before the match had a quiet afternoon but his angled rising effort in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute clipped the top of the near post. In the closing minutes of the half Fanimmo, after a fine run towards goal, and then an Anthony Church far post header threatened but Scott Wilson netted the winning goal in the 45<sup>th</sup> minute after a solo run through the Blues defence and a low shot wide of Tom Lovelock.

Rod Stringer brought on Mason Walsh in place of Culley at the start of the second half but the Seagulls continued to have the edge in midfield after the restart. However, Johnny Herd sent a header on to the roof of the net before Buchanan working himself into some space just inside the box hit the base of an upright with a drive 20 minutes from time after receiving a pass from Adam Bailey-Dennis. The Somerset side almost doubled their lead in the 80<sup>th</sup> minute when Jacob Cane was denied by a Lovelock near post stop. The frustrated Blues' last chance was in the third minute of added time when Buchanan's glancing header from Fanimmo's cross was wide of the mark.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Tom Lovelock; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Johnny Herd; Matt Johnson; Adam Bailey-Dennis; Anthony Furlonge; Frankie Merrifield (Josh Ekim 63); Anthony Church; Elliott Buchanan;

Michael Thalassitis (Duncan Culley 15 (Mason Walsh 46)); Matty Fanimio.

Unused substitutes: Christian Smith and Dymon Labonne.

WESTON SUPER MARE: Luke Purnell; Ben Withey; Ollie Barnes; Pat Keary; Jamie Edge; Clayton Fortune; Tsvetan Filipov (Mitchell Page 66); Jake Mawford (Alex Byrne 87); Scott Wilson (Tristan Plummer 60); Dayle Grubb; Jacob Cane.

Unused substitutes: Joe McClennan, and Bradley Ash.

Attendance: 348