

HAYES & YEADING UNITED 0, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2 (VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH)

Goals from Christian Smith and substitute Sheldon Sellaars in the last fifteen minutes of this contest saw the Blues back to winning ways. After a poor first half from both sides Stortford did enough to deserve the maximum points by the final whistle. It was therefore a much happier squad that returned from York Road than that a month previous following the 4-1 reversal to Maidenhead United.



There were changes in Rod Stringer's squad with Christian Smith coming into the centre of defence to partner the returning George Allen whilst Sellaars was on the bench and now fit after his appendix operation. Also, having obtained his international clearance, Alli Abdullahi made a welcome return to the Blues' midfield and he went on to have an excellent match with an energy-packed display.



Stortford were kicking downhill in a first half of few chances and little quality from either outfit. In the opening minutes United's Jake Nicholson curled a free-kick wide of the near post whilst Elliott Buchanan headed close over the bar from a De'Reece Vanderhyde right wing cross. There were two near misses for the Blues coming up to the half-hour mark as first a poor clearance out of defence by the hosts saw the ball rebound out to Buchanan and the marksman's angled effort from ten yards was parried away by keeper Dan Lincoln at the near post and then the United stopper had to throw himself forward to push away a dangerous cross from the left by Mason Walsh. The home side was generally creating little to worry Tom Lovelock's defence and most of United's attacks floundered at the edge of the box.



Ten minutes from the break Matty Fanimmo cutting in from the right sent a rising shot over the bar and the Blues came their closest yet to breaking the deadlock in the 39th minute with a Walsh corner resulting in a header from skipper Anthony Church that was headed off the line by Jim Fenlon. A minute later Buchanan after receiving a pass from Matt Johnson struck a piledriver that Lincoln managed to beat away. A minute from the interval Brendan Kiernan was close for the hosts with a rising effort after a quick break upfield.

There were few openings in the early part of the second half but there were signs of Stortford getting the better of the proceedings. In the 59th minute Buchanan laid the ball back to Matt Johnson in a promising position but the midfielder snatched his shot to send it over the bar. Then, after a fine run on the left by Mason Walsh the on-loan player laid the ball on to Anthony Church who saw his low shot saved low down at full stretch by Lincoln.



Just past the midpoint of the second period Tom Lovelock had to move quickly to hold a Nicholson free-kick under the bar but Walsh was again prominent in a move up the left flank that ended with the ball switched into the middle and Matt Johnson striking a fierce 20 yard shot that Lincoln knew little about as it deflected off him for a corner.

In the 73rd minute Walsh was again in the action this time providing a cross that found Sheldon Sellears towards the far post and the substitute, who had only been on the field for a few minutes, powered a shot at goal that was kept out by a fine save by Lincoln.

Stortford were clearly the better side and their efforts culminated in a goal in the 75th minute. Elliott Buchanan was fouled by defender Devante McKain some 25 yards out and although the leading goalscorer's free-kick hit the defensive wall the ball rebounded out to Christian Smith who fired a low drive from outside the box and the ball found a gap and evaded Lincoln's dive to find its way into the corner of the net. It was Smith's first goal for the Blues.

Rod Stringer's outfit doubled the lead and ensured the points three minutes from the end of normal time following another attack on the left and when Walsh crossed to the

far upright and Sellears was on hand to head home past Lincoln.

TEAM INFO AND MATCH DETAILS:

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Tom Lovelock; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Johnny Herd; Alli Abdullahi; Christian Smith; George Allen; Matty Fanimio (Sheldon Sellears 69); Anthony Church; Elliott Buchanan; Matt Johnson; Mason Walsh.

Unused substitutes: Josh Ekim, Frankie Merrifield, Dymon Labonne and Anthony Furlonge.

HAYES & YEADING UNITED: Dan Lincoln; Jim Fenlon; Max Worsfold; Adam Everitt; Lewis Ferrell; Devante McKain; Brendan Kiernan (Luke Williams 46); Jake Nicholson; Elliot Benyon (Charlie Strutton 72); Ismael Ehui (Josh Scott 58); Alex Osborn.

Unused substitutes: Ed Sanders and Magnus Norman.

Half time: 0-0

Goalscorers: Christian Smith 75, Sheldon Sellears 87

Referee: Mr J Amey

Attendance: 176