

## BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0 MAIDENHEAD UNITED 2

Blues slipped to a third straight home loss as Maidenhead completed an early season double under their belts. The Magpies were good value for their victory by the final whistle but it was very different in the first half hour when Stortford had the better of the exchanges.



Rod Stringer made a number of changes to the side eliminated from the FA Cup a week earlier. Playing with two up front Charlie Sheringham partnered Elliott Buchanan whilst Kenzer Lee returned to the centre of the defence after injury. Christian Smith moved over to the left side of defence with Johnny Herd on the substitutes' bench. Also returning to the starting eleven was Kieran Bywater.



Bywater, released by Matt Johnson on the right had an early effort blocked and a Smith long range attempt was deflected over the bar. From a Bywater corner in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute Smith headed narrowly wide a chance at the back post and Stortford continued to force a number of corners . Tom Lovelock in the Stortford goal was

largely inactive but United took the lead against the run of play in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute. Harry Pritchard's corner on the right was headed firmly into the back of the net by Dean Inman at close range.



Just a minute later Dave Tarpey broke down the middle to beat Lovelock but an offside decision was given.

Six minutes after the break the Blues' leading marksman Elliott Buchanan flashed a shot just wide following a De'Reece Vanderhyde cross from the right but Alan Devonshire's organised side looked more menacing and they doubled their lead in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute as a long ball from Josh Huggins fed Jake Reid drifting in from the left and the striker shot low past Lovelock.

The Blues nearly pulled a goal back two minutes later following a great run and cross to the near post by substitute Mason Walsh but Charlie Sheringham's shot hit the backside of a defender and from the rebound Buchanan saw former Blues' stopper Carl Pentney produce a fine save. However



United were in control and Reid was close

twice with headers whilst Lovelock parried out a shot from Pritchard in the 76<sup>th</sup> minute. The closest that the Blues came to reducing the arrears was in the 89<sup>th</sup> minute when a Bywater corner was met by a header by George Allen and Pentney did well to stretch and parry away from danger on the goal-line.



Blues: Tom Lovelock; De'Reece Vanderhyde (Frankie Merrifield 74); Christian Smith; Matt Johnson (Dymon Labonne 74); Kenzer Lee; George Allen; Kieran Bywater; Anthony Church; Elliott Buchanan; lul  
Unused substitutes: Johnny Herd and Josh Ekim.

Attendance: 332