

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

The day's only National League South fixture produced a dour goal-less stalemate with Stortford having now gone six hours without scoring at the ProKit (Stadium) UK whilst for the visitors this was their second successive 0-0 draw.

Rod Stringer made a number of changes to the side that had lost to Maidenhead United a week earlier with Johnny Herd and Alli Abdullahi returning to the starting line-up and Christian Smith together with Matty Fanimmo dropping to the bench. Also amongst the substitutes was new signing Chris M'Boungou a central defender. Dymon Labonne was not in the squad at all whilst the on-loan Mason Walsh has returned to AFC Bournemouth

Although the visitors forced two early corners the Blues were soon on the front-foot and looking positive. Kieran Bywater whipped in a low cross from the right that travelled through the six yard box before being cleared and then the same player had a header held under the bar by keeper Dan Lincoln in the 16th minute. Seconds after a cross from Charlie Sheringham seemed to hit a defender's hand in the box a great 25 yard effort from Matt Johnson rebounded off an upright. Although striker Elliot Benyon skied the ball over the top at the far post after a Max Worsfold free-kick pressure from Stortford continued as Sheringham and Elliott Buchanan, with a drive into the side-netting, went close coming up to the half-hour mark. There was another penalty shout for the Blues when George Allen was bundled over at the left angle of the box by Luke Williams but Referee Ben Cooke waived play on. Stortford, however, had an escape in the 35th minute following a swift break but Elliot Benyon fired wide when well placed.

With the Blues attacking the Town end on the restart another chance went begging when Bywater's corner from the right was headed wide by Kenzer Lee at the back post six minutes after the interval. Some of the Blues approach work was promising and in the 69th minute skipper Anthony Church and Kieran Bywater were involved in an attack that finally saw Elliott Buchanan stretch to send an angled shot wide of the far post from 18 yards. Then three minutes later De'Reece Vanderhyde delivered a deep cross from the right Charlie Sheringham headed across goal and wide of the far stick. Chances, though, were generally few and far between for both sides in the closing minutes of normal time. United substitute Cole Brown's drive from the angle of the box wasn't far off target in the 89th minute and an acute angled low attempt from Charlie Sheringham in the second minute of stoppage time was briefly fumbled by United stopper Lincoln at his near post before recovering to grab the ball.

TEAM INFO AND MATCH DETAILS:

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Tom Lovelock; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Johnny Herd; Alli Abdullahi; Kenzer Lee; George Allen; Kieran Bywater; Anthony Church; Elliott Buchanan (Matty Fanimò 82); Charlie Sheringham; Matt Johnson.

Unused substitutes: Christian Smith, Frankie Merrifield, Josh Ekim and Chris M'Boungou.

HAYES & YEADING UNITED: Dan Lincoln; Jim Fenlon; Jhai Dhillon; Adam Everitt; Lewis Ferrell; Adam Bygrave; Mason Spence (Cole Brown 87); Luke Williams; Elliot Benyon; Josh Scott; Max Worsfold (Dylan Kearney 76).

Unused substitutes: Ismael Ehui, Justin Clayton and Delroy Preddie.

Referee: Mr B Cooke

Attendance: 313