

Hopes that Stortford's home form had taken a turn for the better after the previous week's win over Bath City were dashed as a goal in each half from United saw them collect the points and in doing so they leapfrogged over the Blues in mid-table. The result was an identical score-line to that which saw the visitors knock Stortford out of the FA Cup in September. There was little doubt that Sutton deserved their win as they were the stronger side virtually throughout the ninety minutes of rain and wind with Stuart Fleetwood a threat from the early stages. However, the Blues always had the chance of getting something from the match as Sutton didn't net their second goal until the final minute of normal time.



Rod Stringer's side weren't helped by the fact that the Blues' boss had to make several changes to his line-up. Skipper Anthony Church and De'Reece Vanderhyde were missing due to them picking up injuries in midweek training whilst Alli Abdullahi hadn't recovered from a groin strain suffered against Bath. Chris M'Boungou was also absent because of him being stuck in France due to the tragic events in Paris. Back into the team was George Allen to play alongside Christian Smith in the heart of the defence whilst Frankie Merrifield and Josh Ekim were in the starting eleven.

In the 12th minute Fleetwood's angled effort from the left finished on the roof of

the net and seven minutes later his shot struck the underside of the bar and CRAIG DUNDAS was first to the rebound to send it into the net (0-1).



The Surrey side dictated the play from midfield and on the half hour a Dundas volley deflected off of Christian Smith to narrowly clear the bar. From the resultant corner by Fleetwood, Craig McAllister headed close past the post. In a rare raid Stortford's Morgan Ferrier, after a great run on the left and cutting in towards goal, was denied by a timely interception by Jamie Collins in the 33rd minute. Blues' stopper Tom Lovelock then made a fine block from Fleetwood four minutes before the break.



The visitors continued to have the edge after the restart but visiting keeper Ross Worner did well just after the hour to hold on to a corner kick from the right. Midway through the half Sutton's Dean Beckwith tried a shot on the turn from the edge of the box that Lovelock saved low down. United keeper Worner was tested really

for the first time in the 88th minute when he saved a Christian Smith shot from distance. The visitors made the game safe in the final minute of normal time when breaking quickly upfield. McAllister found substitute Tommy Wright dashing down the right flank and his cross was converted at the far post by fellow sub ROSS STEARN (0-2).



The Blues came close to notching a consolation goal in the third minute of stoppage time following a surging run by substitute Dymon Labonne who set up Morgan Ferrier for a run at goal but the striker's shot ended in the side-netting at the near post.

Referee Sam Purkiss yellow carded the Blues' Matt Johnson, Kieran Bywater and Omar Rowe together with United's Craig Eastmond during the second half.



TEAM INFO AND MATCH DETAILS:-

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Tom Lovelock; Ian Gayle; Johnny Herd (Dymon Labonne 85); Josh Ekim (Omar Rowe 61); Christian Smith; George Allen; Kieran Bywater; Frankie Merrifield (David Hutton 72); Elliott Buchanan; Matt Johnson; Morgan Ferrier.

Unused substitutes: Kenzer Lee and Daniel Burns

SUTTON UNITED: Ross Worner; Simon Downer; Dan Wishart; Dean Beckwith; Shaun Cooper; Jamie Collins; Tom Bolarinwa (Ross Stearn 46); Craig McAllister; Craig Dundas; Craig Eastmond; Stuart Fleetwood (Tommy Wright 86).

Unused substitutes: Bedsente Gomis, Louis John and Wayne Shaw.

Attendance: 349