

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1, BASINGSTOKE TOWN 2 (VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH)

Stortford slipped to their sixth league defeat of the season at the ProKit (UK) Stadium as a goal from their on-loan defender Dominic Hyam in the last of four minutes of stoppage time gave the bottom-of-the-table visitors their first league victory on the road this campaign.



Played in gale force conditions this was an entertaining match for the neutral with both sides having their bouts of pressure. Probably the correct result would have been a share of the points and Basingstoke's last gasp winner was a kick in the teeth for Rod Stringer's side.

The Blues starting line-up showed a few alterations to that which won at Hemel Hempstead in the county cup a few days earlier. Elliott Buchanan, Alli Abdullahi and Frankie Merrifield were in the starting line-up whilst there was a welcome return to the bench for Mikel Suarez who was to enter the fray in the last twenty minutes or so. Also amongst the substitutes was newcomer Max Oldham.



The Blues had the edge at the start. An Omar Rowe corner in the 3rd minute resulted in Chris M'Boungou heading a foot over the top as the windy conditions favoured Stortford in the first half. Then, five minutes later, after good work on the right by Dymon Labonne Elliott Buchanan hit the outside of the near post with an angled volley. Stoke

stopper Aaron Howe was seeing a lot of the ball and he saved well from Alli Abdullahi's 20 yard effort shortly afterwards. The ball was parried out and defender Dominic Hyam cleared the loose ball away from danger as Buchanan closed in. Skipper George Allen was also close following another Rowe corner but his shot arriving towards the far post was deflected off of a defender for another flag-kick.



However, gradually Town built up pressure and Tom Lovelock made blocking saves in quick succession from Liam Enver-Marum and Lloyd Macklin after breaks upfield. Then in the 38th minute the visitors took the lead as skipper JAY GASSON headed firmly past Lovelock following a James Harper corner (0-1). In added time before the interval the visitors' lead was nearly extended when another Harper corner saw Dominic Hyam head narrowly over.



Half time: 0-1

Basingstoke started the livelier on the resumption with a Chris Flood shot saved by Lovelock low down in the 55th minute and then Flood hit the post with a screamer in the 57th minute followed by the bar with a back-header a minute later from a Harper free-kick. Then on the hour mark Lovelock again saved well after Lloyd Mackin had cut in from the

right and driven a strong shot at goal. But then it was Stortford who turned the screw and mounted increased pressure helped by the introduction of Mikel Suarez in the 71st minute. Eventually in the 77th minute they equalised after Morgan Ferrier hit the bar with a powerful shot from outside the box and when leading scorer ELLIOTT BUCHANAN fastened on to the loose ball he drove a low shot from the edge of the area that entered the net via the inside of a post and went along the goal-line before going inside the other upright (1-1).



Unfortunately the visitors had the better of the closing stages and after Flood had twice nearly scored the Blues conceded a free-kick ten yards inside their half deep into added time and failed to defend James Harper's ball into the area and Hyam netted from close range (1-2).

TEAM DETAILS AND MATCH DETAILS:-

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Tom Lovelock; Ian Gayle; Johnny Herd; Alli Abdullahi (Mikel Suarez 71); Chris M'Boungou; George Allen; Dymon Labonne (Tom Beere 61); Frankie Merrifield; Morgan Ferrier; Elliott Buchanan; Omar Rowe (De'Reece Vanderhyde 78).
Unused substitutes: Josh Ekim and Max Oldham.

BASINGSTOKE TOWN: Aaron Howe; Rob Rice; Callum Buckley; James Harper; Jay Gasson; Dominic Hyam; Nathan Smart; Simon Dunn (Louis Soares 83); Liam Enver-Marum; Chris Flood; Lloyd Macklin (Giuseppe Sole 76).
Unused substitutes: Harrison Gilkes, Tom Bird and Manny Williams.

Half time: 0-1

Goalscorers: Bishop's Stortford – Elliott Buchanan 77

Basingstoke Town – Jay Gasson 38
and Dominic Hyam 90+4.

Referee: Mr I Cooper

Attendance: 301