

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1, EASTBOURNE BOROUGH 1 (VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH)

Stortford had to settle for a point in a contest that could have gone either way. The Blues took a first half lead and looked the better side before Borough equalised soon after the restart and shaded the second period.

Rod Stringer selected the same starting eleven that had won at Whitehawk a week earlier and Ashley Miller, Morgan Ferrier and Luke Milbourne were on the bench alongside Josh Ekim and Tom Lovelock.



There was little intensity early on in the match until Eastbourne keeper Lewis Carey stopped Corby Moore's effort from 12 yards in the 13th minute after Elliott Buchanan and Robbie Willmott had linked on the left for the latter to cross low into the box. Blues' stopper Craig King, making his home debut, did well to save down to his left when Kane Haysman burst through the middle from Jamie Taylor's through pass soon afterwards. The visitors, though, looked generally out of sorts before the break and after Carey had held a deflected effort from Robbie Willmott under the bar at the second attempt they went behind in the 26th minute. A deflected cross from the left by Byron Lawrence fell perfectly for CORBY MOORE to volley past Carey from the edge of the box (1-0). It was Moore's first goal for Stortford. Although Borough's Sam Beale was only a foot over the bar from a free-kick in the 32nd minute, the hosts should have built on their lead before the interval particularly in the last action of the half when Willmott chipped the ball from the left over to the far post where leading marksman Elliott Buchanan could only fire narrowly wide from an acute angle.

Half time: 1-0



Eastbourne made some tactical changes at half-time and the visitors vastly improved from the outset of the second half. They had a fine start to the half as within three minutes they were level. A corner on the left from Jack Evans was pushed against the bar by King and eventually KANE HAYSMAN prodded the loose ball over the goal-line from close range (1-1). The match opened out with Blues' skipper Anthony Church narrowly hooking the ball over the bar after a long throw into the box from Johnny Herd. Then, in the 56th minute Nathaniel Pinney's free header from an Evans' free-kick in the 56th minute was well saved by King diving to his left. At the Town end, where Stortford were attacking, it took an excellent last ditch tackle by Borough's Callum Buckley to stop Willmott as he was about to shoot at goal and just before the hour De'Reece Vanderhyde was close with a 20 yard effort over the bar.



In the 64th minute Haysman hit the angle of post and bar from a very oblique angle on the left and Borough substitute Gavin McCallum, cutting in from the right saw his shot strike King's legs before

rebounding to safety eight minutes later. A good run and cross on the right from Willmott saw Church's glancing header go wide past the far upright but the nearest either side came to claiming a winner was ten minutes from time as a deflected long throw from Johnny Herd came across the box to Blues' substitute Morgan Ferrier whose far post header looked destined for the net only for Carey to make an exceptional save and claw the ball back from seemingly behind the line.



Attendance: 313

There were several more near misses at either end before the final whistle and in the two minutes of added time Alli Abdullahi struck a 20 yard rising drive that was wide of the mark.

Referee Anthony Serrano showed a yellow card to Johnny Herd in the first half and also to the visitors' Kane Haysman in the second half.

TEAM DETAILS AND MATCH DETAILS:-

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Craig King; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Johnny Herd; Alli Abdullahi; Kenzer Lee; George Allen; Corby Moore (Morgan Ferrier 68); Anthony Church; Elliott Buchanan; Robbie Willmott; Byron Lawrence.

Unused substitutes: Ashley Miller, Josh Ekim, Luke Milbourne and Tom Lovelock.

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH: Lewis Carey; Jake Sheppard; Sam Beale; Craig Stone; Ian Simpemba; Callum Buckley; Ryan Worrall (Gavin McCallum 46); Nathan Collier; Nathaniel Pinney; Jamie Taylor (Elliott Romain 68); Kane Haysman.

Unused substitutes: Kiran Khinda-John, Bouwe Bosma and Darren Lok.

Half time: 1-0

Goalscorers: Bishop's Stortford – Corby Moore 26
Eastbourne Borough – Kane Haysman

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Referee: Mr Anthony Serrano