

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

Elliott Buchanan hit his 27th league goal of the season as Blues completed their home campaign with a deserved win against Wealdstone.

With this victory Stortford have collected thirteen points from their last five league games at the ProKit UK Stadium - four wins and one draw.



No contest against Wealdstone is a straightforward one but the Blues were that little bit more sharp up front and tighter at the back than the visitors and fully deserved all three points. Rod Stringer against struggled to put out a squad for the match and once more there were several Stortford players in the team carrying knocks. The defence had a different look about it with Robbie Willmott dropping back to the right back berth and De'Reece Vanderhyde switching into the middle to partner George Allen as Kenzer Lee was unwell. In midfield Josh Ekim returned to replace Alli Abdullahi whilst Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson was in the starting eleven.



The first opening of the match came in the third minute when an Buchanan pass released Fortnam-Tomlinson to cut in at a tight angle from the right

flank and finish with an effort that Stones' keeper Jonathan North blocked out at the near post for a corner. For the most part, though, the early stages were a midfield battle the West London side coming closest in the 12th minute with Scott Davies' corner being headed narrowly over the near post angle by Jonny Wright.

The deadlock was broken after 21 minutes. A long throw from the left into the box by Johnny Herd fell kindly for Anthony Church after a deflection off of Buchanan and the skipper was able to turn and lash the ball into the net from six yards.

A 20 yard attempt on goal from Buchanan after receiving a pass from Corby Moore cleared the bar before referee Lee Venamore took centre stage issuing yellow cards to both Frankie Merrifield and Church either side of the half hour mark.

Stortford escaped in the 32nd minute when a long throw from Davies veered across the path of Jefferson Louis at the back post but fortunately the veteran striker kicked thin air.



The referee was in the action again two minutes later when he awarded Stortford a free-kick for a foul ten yards inside the Wealdstone half when it would have been more of an advantage for their attack to have continued. Following the free-kick taken by Willmott, Buchanan set up Church for a shot at goal that was held by North.

Coming up to the break Wright had a header that landed on the roof of Tom Lovelock's net whilst on the stroke of half-time Buchanan sent a flashing volley from the right into the side-netting.

Half time: 1-0

With the Blues now attacking the Town end Buchanan lifted an early 25 yard free-kick over the bar but the visitors levelled the scores from a free-kick in the 54th minute. De'Reece Vanderhyde was ruled to have fouled Louis a good 25 yards out centrally and Shaun Lucien delivered a fine free-kick over the Blues' wall and past Lovelock's dive at his right-hand post into the corner of the net. However, Stortford retook the lead just six minutes later. A concerted attack on the right ended with Robbie Willmott sending a great cross to the far post where Buchanan rose well to nod the ball high inside the upright.



Lovelock saved well in the 63rd minute from a Scott Davies free-kick on the left and also a follow-up shot and then, with twenty minutes of normal time remaining, Jefferson Louis missed out when a deep pass into the area was nodded on to him but the striker shot over the top from ten yards. But throughout the second half Stortford looked the more dangerous side and after good approach play Frankie Merrifield shot over the target from an angle. Then in the 76th minute Willmott swung over another excellent cross but Fortnam-Tomlinson's far post header was stopped by keeper North's fine low save. Only sixty seconds later Fortnam-Tomlinson threaded a through ball down the middle for Buchanan to collect and break clear but the striker delayed his shot which finally was wide.

In the three minutes of added time at the end of the match Willmott was narrowly wide after cutting across the area from the right whilst Scott Davies with Wealdstone's last chance was well off target with a free-kick from the edge of the box. Then in the last action of the match a 30 yard free-kick from Willmott was beaten away by North.

Full time: 2-1

TEAM DETAILS AND MATCH DETAILS:-

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Tom Lovelock; Robbie Willmott; Johnny Herd; Josh Ekim (Alli Abdullahi 71); George Allen; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Corby Moore; Anthony Church; Elliott Buchanan (Byron Lawrence 80); Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson; Frankie Merrifield.
 Unused substitutes: Ashley Miller, Oliver Humphrey and Anthony Furlonge.

WEALDSTONE: Jonathan North; Josh McLeod-Urquhart; Jack D Smith; Wes Parker; Tom Cadmore (Tom Hamblin 80); Elliott Godfrey; Jonny Wright; Nathan Mavila (Bradley Hudson-Odoi 88); Jefferson Louis (Scott McGleish 74); Scott Davies; Shaun Lucien.
 Unused substitutes: Dale Binns and Mpania Herve Kalenga.

Half time: 2-1

Goalscorers: Bishop's Stortford – Anthony Church 21 and Elliott Buchanan 60
 Wealdstone – Shaun Lucien 54

Referee: Mr Lee Venamore

Attendance: 337