

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0 EBBSFLEET UNITED 3

(VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH)

Despite an improved performance, Blues' search for a home win continues as they went down 3-0 against big-spending Ebbsfleet United.

The Kent side may be trying to break the bank in the hope of promotion but Gordon Boateng's side matched them for long spells, and there was little between the teams until the visitors took the lead midway through the first half.



For all that, though, the result saw the Blue Brazil slip into the relegation zone for the first time this season, and they will look for a morale-boosting victory when they travel to Felixstowe & Walton in the FA Cup on Saturday.

The home side should have had an eighth minute penalty when Sam Smith's goalbound shot appeared to be handled by a defender

Evans Kouassi, Harry Osbourne and Smith all had efforts for Blues while Joe Wright brought off a good save from Powell before the visitors took a 25th minute lead when former Blues loanee Dean Rance squeezed the ball home after a good ball from Sam Deering



Clark and Shields had chances to double that lead before the break but the second goal came seven minutes after half-time when a horrendous error from Rumens gifts the ball to Aaron McLean who makes no mistake from 15 yards. Almost immediately Boateng made a double substitution as Johnny Herd and Lee Sawyer replaced Marvel Ekpiteta and Chace O'Neill and a few minutes later Jermaine Osei replaced Dominic Green.



Tambeson Eyong nearly set up a grandstand finish with five minutes of normal time remaining when his header was deflected wide after a good cross from Kouassi, and Blues were made to pay for the miss in injury time as an offside-looking Darren McQueen rounded Wright in injury time to slot home a third.

Attendance 375

Blues: J Wright, P Rodgers, M Ekpiteta (J Herd 54), H Osbourne, D Rumens, T Eyong, J Ekim, C O'Neill (L Sawter 54), D Green (J Osei 66), E Kouassi, S Smith. Unused subs: T Lovelock, B Woods-Garner.