

BUCHANAN RETURNS TO HAUNT BLUES

BLUES 1 CHELMSFORD CITY 3

The Blues gave a much improved showing in the return meeting at a windswept Woodside but Rod Stringer's side completed a quick-fire double over his old club with Elliott Buchanan completing a first half hat-trick.



Stortford included three players making their debuts and were up against it early on when Buchanan headed in at the near post from a Robbie Willmott cross from the right in the fifth minute.



However, within two minutes the Blues were back on level terms as Aaron Greene fired a great 25 yard shot over Ross Fitzsimons and into the top corner.

A period of even play ended in the 21st minute when Shaun Jeffers' low cross from the right wing was slid home at the back post by Buchanan.

Then Stortford's leading goalscorer last term completed his hat-trick in the 37th minute from the penalty spot after Zach Fagan was harshly judged to have handled the ball in the box.

Stortford, against the wind and rain, began the second half well but clear cut chances were few and far between. Midway through the second

half Fitzsimons saved with his legs to keep out an angled effort from newcomer Shomari Barnwell whilst at the other end Harry Voss spread himself to save from Shaun Jeffers following a cross into the middle from Willmott.



Three minutes from the end the Blues survived a mad scramble around the six yards box but whilst there were no more goals Referee Fissenden booked no less than six players after the break – four Blues and two City.



BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Harry Voss, Paul Rodgers, Michael Richards, Harry Hitchens, Antonio Lazzari, Emmanuel Adebowale, Evans Kouassi (Dean Morgan 74), Zach Fagan 6, Shomari Barnwell, Freddy Moncur (Greg Cundle 74), Aaron Greene (Johnny Herd 80) Unused substitutes: Kyran Wiltshire, Frantz Ngassa

CHELMSFORD CITY: Ross Fitzsimons, Ashley Miller, Matt Young, Josh Rees (Max Porter 88), Christopher Bush, Mark Haines, Robbie Willmott, Anthony Church, Shaun Jeffers, Elliott Buchanan (Bagasan Graham 74), Kane Haysman (Michael Spillane 84) Unused substitutes: Jake Reid, Luke Daley.

Referee: Ian Fissenden. Attendance: 717