

Whitehawk 1 Blues 0

A second half penalty from former Blue Glen Southam saw Stortford's relegation fear intensify on Saturday.

Southam netted in the 70th minute following a harsh decision which saw Paul Rodgers penalised for a tackle in the box, with Rian Bray booked for dissent.

With eight games remaining, Blues are now nine points away from safety, and face tough games at Ebbsfleet on Tuesday before title chasers Maidenhead visit the ProKit UK Stadium next Saturday.

Blues 0 Maidenhead United 2

A goal in each half extended the Magpies' top of the table position against a Stortford side that had Kevin Watson in charge for the first time.

The new manager saw his team battle well and territorially there wasn't much between the sides but the visitors always looked that much stronger up front. United went ahead in the 11th minute when Blues' keeper Richard Walton failed to collect a Dave Tarpey deep free-kick cleanly and Jack Parkinson netted the loose ball from close range.



Up to the break play was scrappy with the wind and pitch not helping matters. Harry Pritchard, James Mulley and James Comley went close before the interval as Maidenhead tried to extend their lead but they had to wait until the 59th minute before doubling their account. Again a Blues error led to a goal with skipper Harry

Hickford giving the ball away to Comley who slipped the ball forward for Pritchard to hammer an angled drive wide of Walton from the edge of the box. A great tackle from Paul Rodgers stopped leading marksman Tarpey getting on the scoresheet soon afterwards whilst Walton tipped a Pritchard free-kick over the bar in the 71st minute. The Blues lacked sharpness in front of goal and were unable to force a consolation goal before the final whistle.



BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Walton, Rodgers, Williams, Hickford, Bray, Purse, Kouassi (Taiwo 68), Everitt, Callander (Davidson 76), Ford, Greene. Unused substitutes: Adebowale, Ronto, Kabeya



MAIDENHEAD UNITED: Pentney, Peters 5, Steer 5, Parkinson 7, Massey 8, Inman 7, Tarpey 6 (Smith 82), Comley (Barratt, 76), Marks (Cox 46), Mulley, Pritchard
Unused substitutes: Wiltshire, Clerima
Referee: R Hulme
Attendance: 431

Blues 0 Oxford City 2

Blues sunk to the bottom of the table following their fifth straight league defeat,

during which time they have failed to score a goal.

Apart from a very shaky start Stortford gradually settled down to put together several promising moves. Luke Callander's header in the 12th minute was unfortunately straight at City keeper Craig Hill whilst Aaron Greene's free-kick midway through the half was just over the bar.



The visitors' opening goal, a minute from the break, was a little against the run of play. Stortford's defence failed to intercept a long ball downfield from Freddie Grant to striker Ezra Forde and the 17 year-old found the bottom corner of the net with a shot on the turn from 20 yards. Reece Fleet nearly added a further goal a minute later but Richard Walton saved the attempt.

After the restart the hosts lost some of the conviction they had before the break and Mark Jones' side had the edge through most of the second period. They eventually doubled their lead in the 66th minute when Blues substitute Evans Kouassi fouled Wilson Carvalho in the box and Scott Davies converted the penalty via the underside of the bar. Callander, twice, was close with shots just over and Hill blocked well from Amos Kabeya late on but Stortford were unable to reduce the deficit before the final whistle.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Walton, Bray, Everitt, Taiwo (Kabeya 61), Adebowale, Purse, Ford, Hickford, Callander, Greene, Davidson (Kouassi 61).

Unused substitutes: Fagan, Ronto, Voss.



OXFORD CITY: Hill, Essuman (Abiola-Daramola 46), Grant, Davies, Henderson, Demuria, Carvalho, Fleet (Furlong 67), Forde, Anderson (Louis, 67), Poku..

Unused substitutes: Peake-Pijnen, N'Gathe

Referee: Mr A Dale

Attendance: 265

Weston-super-Mare 5 Blues 0

Blues' 13 year stay in the National League came to end as they were hammered 5-0 at Weston-super-Mare, on Saturday.

While Blues could still catch 19th placed Whitehawk it would take a massive turnaround in goal difference, with Stortford **47** goals behind the Brighton side. Seagulls striker Dayle Grubb certain enjoyed his day as he scored four times – netting in the 9th, 13th, 32nd and 48th minutes while the Blues still had 11 men on the field.

Harry Voss probably regretted his return to the side while Elliott Ronto was probably relieved to pick up an injury in the warm-up.

On 68 minutes, veteran defender Darren Purse saw shown a straight red card and four minutes later, the visitors were down to nine-men when Jake Williams received a second yellow card before Jake Reid wrapped up the Seagulls' win to lift them seven points clear of the drop zone.

Blues: Voss, Bray, Williams, Taiwo (Davidson 55), Adebowale, Purse (c), Richefond, Everitt (Fagan 71), Callander, Greene, Kabeya (Kouassi 45). Unused subs: Ronto, Harris