

## Tiverton Town 1 Blues 0

**Blues' Evo-Stik South Premier debut ended in disappointment as they went down 1-0 at Tiverton Town, on Saturday.**

Jason Williams fired the Blues Brazil into an early second half lead before Tom Gardner drew the sides level before substitute Tom Bath fired home the winner.

Clear cut chances were few and not too much separated the sides at the interval, although Darren Foxley should have put the visitors ahead when he hit his close range effort crashed off the outside of the post with an open goal facing him.

The second half started in a similar vein, until Foxley was given the freedom of the park down Stortford's left wing, his accurate cross found Williams unmarked, who guided a close-range effort home to give the visitors the lead.

Blues' lead lasted barely five minutes as Gardner controlled the ball from a corner and his left foot shot from the edge of the area squeezed its way through a crowded penalty area and past Nicky Eyre.

Bath gave the hosts all three points within two minutes of joining the action as some statuesque defending found him in space in front of goal, and he steadied himself to volley home from close range.

Blues: Eyre, Casey, Tomua, Hughes (c), Sanusi, Robinson, Richefond, Guerfi, Akinyemi, Williams, Foxley. Subs: Farquharson, Westcott (used), Owusu (used), M Ekpiteta, C Ekpiteta.

Att: 253

## Blues 2 Kings Lynn Town 3

**Goals from Jason Williams and Darren Foxley weren't enough to give Blues their first win in the Evo-Stik South League as a new era began at the ProKit UK Stadium on Tuesday**

The two goal cushion the visitors enjoyed at half-time proved to be too much for the new-look Stortford side, and although Williams reduced the deficit, Lynn quickly added a third and although Foxley's late strike set up a

grandstand finish, the Norfolk side hung on for three points.

Foxley had the first effort of the game, firing Dipo Akinyemi's cross wide, but it was the visitors who took the lead in the seventh minute when Craig Parker hooked the ball over the advancing Nicky Eyre from 25 yards. Lucky or brilliant? it was hard to tell.



That lead was doubled five minutes later when a clever flick from Leon Mettam was deflected in off Mark Hughes to make it 2-0.

Ten minutes before the break Mettam wasn't far of target with a glancing header as the visitors mounted more pressure.

It was Williams who gave Blues hope two minutes before the break when he latched on to a perfect through ball from Akinyemi and hammered the ball past Street.

It took just three second half minutes for the visitors to restore their two-goal lead as some statuesque defending allowed former Cambridge United forward Michael Gash to head home a corner to make it 3-1.



Joe Robinson found the back of the net with header but it was ruled offside soon afterwards and Stortford were gradually getting more of a

foothold on the match and looking stronger in midfield. Kevin Watson made a double substitution in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute with Calvin Ekpiteta and Jordan Westcott replacing Ryan Richefond and Zak Guerfi.

Williams twice went close to reducing the arrears with angled shots that went into the side netting, but the visitors continued to look comfortable.

Foxley saw a good cross flash across the face of the goal with seven minutes remaining, but he got his name on the scoresheet as the game entered injury time when he blasted home a loose ball from eight years to set up a big finish.



Foxley joined skipper Mark Hughes in the referee's notebook after some theatrics from Cameron Norman (who was also booked) who appeared to have fallen victim to a sniper, but although the Blues pressed forward they failed to create any clear-cut chances and they'll now look to pick up their first win of the season when Weymouth visit on Saturday.

STORTFORD: Nicky Eyre; George Casey; Aaron Tumwa; Mark Hughes; Priestly Farquharson; Joe Robinson; Ryan Richefond (Calvin Ekpiteta 53); Zak Guerfi (Jordan Westcott 53); Dipo Akinyemi (Christian Owusu 65); Jason Williams; Darren Foxley.

Unused substitutes: Hafeez Sanusi and Marvel Ekpiteta.

KING'S LYNN TOWN: Alex Street; Cameron Norman; Frazer Blake-Tracy; Sam Gaughran; Ryan Fryatt; Ryan Jarvis; Michael Clunan; Craig Parker; Michael Gash (Tom Siddons 75); Leon Mettam (Toby Hilliard 68); Ryan Hawkins.

Unused substitutes: Tom Ward, Dion Frary and Sam Warburton

Referee: Tom Bishop          Attendance: 355

## Blues 2 Weymouth 3

**The Terras left Stortford with all three points thanks to a winning goal thirteen minutes from time from keeper Mark Travers, making his debut on loan from AFC Bournemouth, who struck a free-kick from midway in his own half over the top of his opposite number Nicky Eyre and under the bar.**

In a contest that the Blues should have at least taken a point they had only just drawn level but in the end again lost by the odd goal.

Prior to the game a minute's silence was impeccably observed in respect of the two 90 year-old club stalwarts, Brian Bayford and Ted Scraggs, who passed away in the early summer. Kevin Watson made two changes to the starting eleven with Calvin Ekpiteta and Jordan Westcott coming into the side replacing Ryan Richefond and Zak Guerfi who dropped to the bench.

In an all action first half the Blues took the lead after only 44 seconds when Mark Hughes' through ball was fastened on to by Jason Williams who netted his third goal in three games via the inside of the post with a shot from just inside the box.

It was a completely different start to normal for the hosts and the visitors looked shaky at the back. In the 10<sup>th</sup> minute Travers tipped over a Hughes header over the bar following a Darren Foxley corner from the left.

However, in their first attack the visitors equalised in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute. After an attack on the left wing Ben Thomson steered Callum Buckley's low cross into the far corner past the diving Eyre.

Two minutes later a first time rising effort from the edge of the box by Foxley skimmed the bar. But in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute Stortford's defence was carved open by Calvin Brooks' pass from the right that left Thomson with an easy chance to score his second.

Chances were coming thick and fast at both ends and Thomson put Brandon Goodship through on goal but at the third attempt a shot from the striker was deflected for a corner. Then in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute a Charlie Davies 20 yard free-kick was beaten away by Eyre. At the

other end Dipo Akinyemi found the net from close range in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute but the goal was disallowed.

The remainder of the half saw more near misses at both ends with Buckley having a shot deflected wide after an Eyre error whilst the Stortford stopper saved a volley from Goodship at the expense of a corner.

Kevin Watson brought on Ricky Spriggs to replace Priestley Farquharson in the defence on the restart and after the break the entertainment continued with Stortford having the edge in possession. A Davies shot was held by Eyre and in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute Travers saved well to keep out a Dipo Akinyemi free-kick diving full length to his right.

Calvin Ekpiteta was close on a couple of occasions in the space of a few minutes and the hosts finally levelled the scores in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute with a glancing header from Foxley at the near post finding the net from George Casey's free-kick.

Then just three minutes later came Weymouth's wind-assisted bizarre winner from Mark Travers to Nicky Eyre's embarrassment.

The Blues' keeper was almost caught out again in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute when Goodship tried a long

range pot at goal from just inside the Stortford half.

Stortford were on top in the closing minutes but were unable to create opening to threaten the Dorset side's goal. There were second half yellow cards shown to Jason Williams and Weymouth substitute Harry Baker.

STORTFORD: Nicky Eyre; George Casey; Aaron Tumwa; Mark Hughes; Priestley Farquharson (Ricky Spriggs 46); Joe Robinson; Calvin Ekpiteta (Christian Owusu 88); Jordan Westcott; Dipo Akinyemi; Jason Williams; Darren Foxley.

Unused substitutes: Ryan Richefond, Zak Guerfi and Marvel Ekpiteta.

WEYMOUTH: Mark Travers; Calvin Brooks; Callum Buckley; Ashley Wells; Jordan Rose (Tiago Sa 46); Josh Carmichael; Charlie Davies; Jake McCarthy; Ben Thomson (Sean Stewart 90+4); Brandon Goodship; Josh Wakefield (Harry Baker 67).

Unused substitutes: Aaron Rodriguez and Joe Prodomo

Referee: Mr Robert Claussen

Attendance: 288