

Blues 0 Biggleswade Town 0

The Blues got off the mark with their first point on the board and gave another encouraging display.

Stortford had the edge throughout the first half but lost a little of their fluency after the interval as both sides had chances to win the contest and also hit the woodwork.

It was Kevin Watson's first draw since becoming Blues' manager. The Blues boss made a couple changes to the starting eleven with Marvel Ekpiteta replacing Ricky Spriggs whilst Calvin Ekpiteta came into the side and Dipo Akinyemi dropping to the bench.

Although goal-less it was another entertaining match featuring the Blues. They started in the front foot and a good move on the left in the 3rd minute saw Darren Foxley provide the pass for Ryan Richefond to drive the ball across the face of the goal inches past the far post.

Although Graeme Montgomery for the Waders wasn't far over from distance Foxley was just over with an effort from 30 yards in the 16th minute. Visiting stopper Liam Gooch then had to deal with an awkward free-kick from the right by George Casey and injured himself in the process falling backwards to tip the ball away for a corner at the far post as Marvel Ekpiteta stormed in.

Stortford continued to have the edge and in the 28th minute from the resultant flag kick taken by Foxley, Gooch pushed the ball against the bar and over for another corner.

Town skipper Craig Daniel was close past the target soon afterwards but in the 32nd minute Calvin Ekpiteta saw his shot from deep on the left turned on to the bar by Gooch and there was no one to convert the rebound. Foxley, again, threatened for Stortford but five minutes from the break Morgan Penfold crossed from the left and Jack Bowen, near the far post, had a fierce shot excellently turned round the upright by Tyler McCarthy. Stortford closed the half with Jason Williams almost turning in Foxley's corner from close range in the 41st minute.

Town's Robbie Parker wasn't far off target with a low 25 yard effort five minutes after the restart as the visitors had the edge early in the second half but an excellent attack on the hour saw Jason Williams and Calvin Ekpiteta link to provide George Casey with a run on the right which ended with his cross across goal deflected away for a corner. Foxley's corner also nearly resulted in the Blues going in front with a header narrowly going over the bar.

Tyler McCarthy held a shot from just inside the box by Penfold and the Blues defence was almost caught out in the 68th minute when Daniel delivered the ball from the right towards the far side of the box and Jack Bowen hit the post from a couple of yards distance.

Joe Maybanks replaced Clvin Ekpiteta in the 71st minute and the substitute had an early shot deflect off defender Gavin Hoyte to spin back to keeper Gooch. Then in the 78th minute came the best chance for the Blues to have taken all the points. Another good build up ended with Maybanks slipping the ball out to the left to Aaron Tumwa who whipped in a first time cross that Jason Williams somehow headed wide six yards out and in front of goal.

Before the final whistle both sides were close with long range shots – Jordan Westcott twice for Stortford and substitutes Daniel Jarvis and Hugh Albon-Jones for the Waders.

George Casey was cautioned early in the second half by the inconsistent Referee Neil West.

STORTFORD: Tyler McCarthy; George Casey; Aaron Tumwa; Mark Hughes; Marvel Ekpiteta; Joe Robinson; Calvin Ekpiteta (Joe Maybanks 71); Jordan Westcott; Jason Williams; Ryan Richefond; Darren Foxley.

Unused substitutes: Christian Owusu, Dipo Akinyemi, Zak Guerfi and Ricky Spriggs.

BIGGLESWADE TOWN: Liam Gooch; Tyler Walker; Lucas Perry; Reece Fielding; Graeme Montgomery (Hugh Albon-Jones 83); Gavin Hoyte; Craig Daniel (Daniel Jarvis 78); Connor Hall; Jack Bowen; Robbie Parker; Morgan Penfold (Elliot Beevor 90+3). Unused sub: Sam Paton
Referee: Neil West Attendance: 312