

## DUNSTABLE TOWN 0 BISHOP'S STORTFORD 5

**Three goals in the opening 16 minutes set Stortford on the road to a convincing victory and confidence booster at Creasey Park.**

Striker Jason Williams completed his first hat-trick for the club in the second half after netting twice before the break. It was the biggest five goal margin win for the Blues since the 6-1 thumping of Chipstead in the FA Cup run in October 2013 and the biggest win in the League since the 5-0 success at Woodside Park over Droylesden in the Conference North in March 2012.



Stortford dominated the first half and although the hosts, who never gave up, came more into the picture after the break the Blues could have netted more than the one goal that they got after the interval.

There was one change to Kevin Watson's squad that had lost a few days earlier at Frome. That was Sam Hatton, recovered from injury, returning to the starting eleven in place of Jordan Westcott who was on the bench.

From the first whistle Stortford were on the front foot with pace and energy. They opened

their account in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute. Hatton's corner on the left was met by a powerful header towards the far post by Dipo Akinyemi who registered his first goal in Stortford colours.



It was all pressure by the Blues although Tyler McCarthy failed to catch cleanly a Jonathan Barnett free-kick in the 8<sup>th</sup> minute but the danger was cleared by his defence. The second goal arrived in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute. Hatton and Darren Foxley were involved in a move on the left which led to Akinyemi being released down the wing and the striker's low cross from near the corner flag was converted from close range by Williams.

Five minutes late and it was three as Foxley's corner from the right towards the near upright was chested into the net by Williams.

Stortford had shouts for a penalty turned down in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute after Tyrique Hyde-Skerritt went to ground following an incisive run into the box. A rare attack by the Bedfordshire club saw Arel Amu slide his shot wide when connecting with a Ryan Young cross. Then, on the half hour, the home goal survived after

another Hatton corner. Marvel Ekpiteta's goalbound effort was blocked and seconds later Hyde-Skerritt's acute angle shot was held low by keeper Will Henry.

In the 37<sup>th</sup> minute Dunstable's John Sonuga put the ball into his own net but referee Evans ruled that Akinyemi had fouled the central defender after Williams had slipped the ball into the box.

However, it wasn't long before Stortford grabbed their fourth goal of the evening. In the 41<sup>st</sup> minute a long throw from the right by George Casey towards the box was cleared out to Mark Hughes and the skipper's strong drive from 20 yards was veering away past the far post but it struck defender Ben Collins and finished in his own net.

Just before the break Akinyemi had his free-kick saved by Henry after the striker had been fouled.

Whilst the hosts made a double substitution immediately on the resumption Kevin Watson was forced to bring off Darren Foxley who was feeling unwell. He was replaced by Ryan Richefond.

Dunstable made a better start to the second half and a Barnett free-kick almost caused problems at the back post in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute. The Blues first dangerous attack in the second period came in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute after a swift attack finished with Richefond supplying a pass to Hyde-Skerritt whose shot at goal was well saved by Henry.

Dunstable had a chance to pull a goal back after 65 minutes but Young screwed his shot wide of the mark when put clear with just

McCarthy to beat. Two minutes later, at the other end, an excellent move following Aaron Tumwa's free-kick on the left saw Hughes put Williams through but he also shot wide.

Williams claimed his hat-trick and his ninth goal of the season so far in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute. Hyde-Skerritt was the provider for the Blues marksman to run at goal and shoot low past Henry.

The Stortford top scorer could have netted again ten minutes from time but he headed a Akinyemi centre straight at the keeper. The hosts came close a couple of times as the minutes ticked away and perhaps deserved a consolation goal but in added time Stortford could have added to their tally as Akinyemi, after a solo run, and Hyde-Skerritt had further efforts saved by stopper Henry.

STORTFORD: Tyler McCarthy; George Casey; Aaron Tumwa; Mark Hughes (Jordan Westcott 86); Marvel Ekpiteta; Joe Robinson; Tyrique Hyde-Skerritt; Sam Hatton; Dipo Akinyemi; Jason Williams (Christian Owusu 88); Darren Foxley (Ryan Richefond 46).

Unused substitutes: Calvin Ekpiteta and Alex Rogers.

DUNSTABLE TOWN: Will Henry; Ben Collins; Gedeon Okito; Jonathan Barnett; John Sonuga; Scott Betts (Kieran Ogden 46); Ryan Young; Brandy Makuendi (Lanre Ladipo 72); Arel Amu; Joseph Chidyausiku (Sam Odusoga 46); Saul Williams.

Unused substitute: Oluwanimilo Ajigbolamu.

Referee: Robert Evans

Attendance: 105