

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 3, BOREHAM WOOD 1 (after extra time) (FA YOUTH CUP – 1ST ROUND)

Two Alfie Mason goals in extra time sent Blues under-18s into the FA Youth Cup second round with a 3-1 win against Boreham Wood. It is only the second time the club have gone this far in the competition and Morgan LaForce's team will now face a trip Colchester United in a fortnight's time as they look for a victory that would see them enter the draw with the Premier League and Championship clubs.



The Blues deserved to go through following a close and exciting cup-tie. The visitors seemed to be the team more likely to progress as they had the edge in the second period of regulation time and the first period of extra time but two goals by Mason in the second period of extra time clinched the victory.

Mason was narrowly wide early on as Stortford exerted a lot of pressure on the Wood defence. They had all the early play but in the 18th minute Blues keeper Jarvis Monk collected a yellow card after fouling Theo Costa outside the box when the Wood player threatened to break clear. Monk was also in action three minutes later when tipping a Cheyce Grant free-kick over the bar.



The Blues took the lead in the 27th minute as Wood centre back Ionut Radu had trouble dealing with a long ball downfield out of the Stortford half. The alert Callum Taylor fastened on to the ball and drilled a left footer low inside the near post.

Shortly afterwards Mason nearly doubled the score but Wood's Harry Challis covering well cut out the danger.

Visiting skipper Jack Gibbs was close over the bar following a Grant corner in the 34th minute and they were level a minute later. A good cross from Grant, on the left, was headed past the diving Monk by Iliman N'Daiye.

A header from Stortford skipper Ethan Barton was close from a Mason free-kick prior to the interval.

Wood keeper Fred Burbidge saved well from a Mason free-kick in the 47th minute and there were plenty of near misses at both ends. However, Wood seemed to be getting on top as the tie progressed and Kai Wint headed a good chance wide from a Costa cross in the 77th minute before Monk saved with his legs two minutes later when Radu shot from close range.

Stortford rallied towards the end of normal time and Rhamar Garrett-Douglas' acute angled effort was pushed away by Burbidge and then in virtually the last action before extra time Ben King headed narrowly past the post when he met a Taylor cross.



The first half of extra time saw the visitors have most of the possession but the Stortford defence held firm.

The second period was only a minute old when the Blues retook the lead. A Crowther free-kick was headed on by Taylor and a deflection took the ball to Mason on the edge of the box and the striker cracked a low shot into the corner of the net.

The goal forced Wood to chase the game and with gaps in their defence Stortford wrapped up the tie with a third goal three minutes from time. Barton ran out to the left wing to collect a loose ball and his work was rewarded when the skipper cut the ball back for Mason to fire in from close range.

The visitors, to their credit, did not give up, and Jarvis Monk had to make two good saves before the final whistle to see the Blues through to face Colchester United.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Jarvis Monk; George Brand; Rhamar Garrett-Douglas; Freddie Oakman; Max Brassington; Marcus Crowther; Max Hutchinson (Lewis Wicker 53); Ethan Barton; Callum Taylor; Alfie Mason; Ben King (Jack Walker 107).

Unused substitutes: Isaac Durand, Richmond Amakye and Joe Chadd.

Referee: Mr Andreas Anastasiou

Attendance: 157

