

# BISHOP'S STORTFORD 4 DUNSTABLE TOWN 1

Blues recovered from the shock of conceding an early goal against struggling Dunstable to record their first league double since the 2015/16 season.

The game will particularly be remembered for an excellent goal by debutant Dean Ager who netted Stortford's second of the night within three minutes of coming on as a substitute and put them on course for victory.

Kevin Watson named an unchanged side after the draw at Redditch United the previous weekend and they started well. Jason Williams' volley flew just wide of the target with the aid of a slight deflection for a corner and Darren Foxley's flag kick had veteran keeper Richard Lee in trouble until the ball was cleared at the back post.

It was the Blues lowly opponents who took the lead in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute. Stortford failed to clear a corner properly and when Peter Kioso returned the ball from the right towards the near post Tyler McCarthy failed to gain possession and after a number of efforts had been blocked CHARLIE BLACK netted from close range.

Freddy Moncur had a goalbound effort diverted away for a corner by Dunstable's Erin Amu in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute but the Blues were struggling to get their game together at this stage and the visitors had the upper hand with Lanre Ladipo having a shot held by McCarthy in the 28<sup>th</sup> minute. Stortford, however, equalised in the 31<sup>st</sup> minute with a well taken goal. An attack up the right flank ended with a short cross into FREDDY MONCUR at the near angle of the area and the on loan midfielder from Leyton Orient, in one movement, whipped a volley between stopper Lee's dive and the near post (1-1).

Stortford settled down after the goal and Casey went close after a move with Moncur although McCarthy was forced to save with his legs from Black after the Dunstable

goalscorer had cut in from the right at the start of added time.

Watson made some changes at the break including bringing on 18 year-old Dean Ager as a substitute in place of Alex Rogers.

Again the Blues made a good start to the half and when Dipo Akinyemi flicked the ball through for Jason Williams to break clear in the 47<sup>th</sup> minute Lee saved well. But in the next minute Stortford took the lead through a special goal. AGER, on a work experience loan from Colchester United, collected the ball out on the right and took it on a few paces before hammering a long distance shot past the despairing dive of former Football League keeper Lee into the far corner of the net,

This seemed to be the real turning point for Stortford and three minutes later Lee, with a diving save, did well to keep a Moncur free-kick out of his net.

The lead was extended in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute. A move up the left saw Akinyemi pass the ball forward to Ager who in turn flicked it on to JASON WILLIAMS who eventually drove it through the keeper's legs for his tenth league goal of the season



Unfortunately a few minutes later

Williams had to leave the pitch with a hamstring problem.

Lee saved from Akinyemi in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute but Stortford almost conceded an own goal soon afterwards when Andrew Osei-Bonsu's cross struck George Casey near the goal-line but fortunately it rebounded off of McCarthy's legs to safety.

The Blues were largely in control though and Moncur was close with another volley and Ager had a deflected shot just go over for a corner whilst they might have had a penalty when Akinyemi went down in the box.

The Blues final goal arrived in the 84<sup>th</sup> minute after substitute Callum Taylor had been fouled on the left. Darren Foxley's accurate free-kick to the far post found the head of JOE ROBINSON who guided it inside the upright.

Jordan Westcott had a drive well saved by Lee two minutes from the end of normal time.

Robinson and Casey picked up cautions during the match.

STORTFORD: Tyler McCarthy; George Casey; Alex Rogers (Dean Ager 46); Josh Simpson (Jack Thomas 67); Marvel Ekpiteta; Joe Robinson; Darren Foxley; Jordan Westcott; Jason Williams (Callum Taylor 62); Freddy Moncur; Dipo Akinyemi.

Unused substitute: Alfie Mason.

DUNSTABLE TOWN: Richard Lee; Peter Kioso; Ty Ward; Erin Amu (Claudio Silva 85); John Sonuga; Daniel Trif; Lanre Ladipo; Sam Odusoga (Jonathan Barnett 67); Arel Amu; Andrew Osei-Bonsu; Charlie Black.

Unused substitutes: Ben Collins and Brandy Makuendi.

Referee: Rick Bloy

Attendance: 205