

REDDITCH UNITED 2 BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2

Despite Redditch substitute Tristian Dunkley clipping the outside of an upright with the last kick of this contest the Blues fully deserved to come away from their first visit to the TRICO

Stadium with a share of the points.

In an entertaining match played on a 3G pitch the hosts looked a strong side and with Dior Angus, the current leading goalscorer in the Premier Division of the Evo Stik Southern League, always a potential danger but Kevin Watson's side played some fluent football and looked dangerous particularly Dipo Akinyemi who had a good match.

The fixture in the Midlands saw the return of Josh Simpson into the midfield after injury whilst Dean Ager, on work experience from Colchester United, took a place on the substitutes bench.

The Blues fell behind in the third minute with United breaking upfield quickly on the left following a Stortford corner and when Ashley Sammons slipped the ball forward to DIOR ANGUS the striker cut in before delivering a powerful angled shot across Tyler McCarthy and into the far top corner.

The hosts continued to have the best of the early action and Alex Rogers blocked an effort by Sammons whilst a through ball from Gui Mailacol in the 17th minute found Angus in a dangerous position but this time his shot was across the face of the goal.

Gradually Stortford were coming more into the match and a ball into the box from Freddy Moncur was punched away by home stopper Ethan Ross. Then, on the half hour, Dipo Akinyemi got his head on a Darren Foxley cross but the ball dropped nicely for Ross to gather comfortably. McCarthy was then tested twice in quick

succession with a Sammons cross leading to a header from Orrin Pendley that the keeper had to save diving to his left and then when Kevin Da Veiga Monteiro delivered the ball into the box Andi Thanoj steered a shot goalwards that was stopped by the keeper.

The Blues kept probing the Redditch defence and their efforts were rewarded in the 41st minute when Foxley's cross from the right ran loose out to the far side where DIPO AKINYEMI collected the ball and then, allowed some space, took it to just inside the box before driving low into the far corner.



Stortford made a bright start to the second half and when Jason Williams teed up Foxley for a shot at goal in the 47th minute Ross saved well diving to his left to concede a corner. Shortly afterwards

Akinyemi was just wide of the mark from the edge of the area.

However, Stortford were behind again on the hour. A header from Mailacol following a free-kick by Thanoj was saved by McCarthy for a corner but the resultant flag-kick on the right by Danny Jackman was met by a strong header into the back of the net by ORRIN PENDLEY.

The Blues didn't give up and equalised for a second time in the 73rd minute through an own goal. A great run on the right and cross from George Casey caused confusion in the Reds' defence and substitute PAULY APOSTOLOPOULAS, who had only been on the pitch for seven minutes, could only turn the ball into his own net at the back post.

Darren Foxley was close to giving Stortford the lead soon afterwards but Kevin Watson's side had an escape in the 84th minute as a corner from Thanoj caused mayhem in the six yard box and a number of close range scrambled attempts primarily from Angus were blocked by the Blues defence. Minutes later it was Stortford who went very close to a winner when, following good build-up play Freddy Moncur was denied by Ross turning the ball over the bar from close range.

Then in the final action of the match, deep into added time, Reds skipper Jackman slipped the ball on to substitute Dunkley whose first time shot struck the outside of the near post.

Yellow cards were shown to Joe Robinson and Jason Williams in the match.

STORTFORD: Tyler McCarthy; George Casey; Alex Rogers; Josh Simpson; Marvel Ekpiteta; Joe Robinson; Darren Foxley; Jordan Westcott; Jason Williams; Freddy Moncur (Jack Thomas 90+2); Dipo Akinyemi.

Unused substitutes: Dean Ager and Callum Taylor..

REDDITCH UNITED: Ethan Ross; Lewis Wright (Pauly Apostolopoulos 66); Nathan Fox; Guiyoulouwe Mailacol; Marcel Simpson; Orrin Pendley; Andi Thanoj; Danny Jackman; Dior Angus; Ashley Sammons; Kevin De Veiga Monteiro (Tristian Dunkley 76).

Unused substitutes: Spencer Weir-Daley, Joseph Thomas and Gowan Stares.

Referee: Mr Darren Wilding

Attendance: 258