

ST IVES TOWN 0 -BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1

Blues' climb up the league table continued at the ProEdge Stadium when Darren Foxley's goal early in the second half settled this contest.

It was enough for Stortford in what was a poor match and of poor quality with the ball high up in the night sky for much of the time. The Blues' defence dealt well with the hosts' direct style of play and keeper Tyler McCarthy didn't have much to do in the 90 minutes.



Since the defeat at Banbury United on August Bank Holiday Saturday, Stortford have now picked up 18 points from their last nine league matches.

For the second successive midweek match Stortford finished playing against a ten man opposition. Just after the hour mark Ives defender Brett Longden was shown a straight red card after a poor late tackle on Ryan Richefond.

Stortford were without Sam Hatton who had suffered an injury late in the previous match against Basingstoke Town and hadn't recovered. This meant that, without the injured Mark Hughes, 24 year-old Aaron Tumwa was the oldest player in Kevin Watson's young squad at St Ives.

Leading scorer Jason Williams returned after his three match suspension but was on the substitutes bench with Ryan Richefond in the starting line-up.

The early stages of the match were scrappy, indicative of how the game would evolve with

few openings at either end. The first chance fell to Stortford in the 13th minute after Dipoo Akinyemi had crossed in from the left and after a scramble in the box Freddy Moncur flashed a shot over the bar from ten yards.

Shortly afterwards Darren Foxley did well to win a 50-50 ball inside the Ives half and when the ball ran forwards towards the penalty area Akinyemi struck a shot that deflected off a defender for a corner.

The game gradually opened out and Danny Kelly shot close past the target after the Ives striker was found by a long pass in the 17th minute. Then just before the half hour Dubi Ogbonna was wide with a shot when the visiting defence hesitated. In the final minutes of the half there was a half chance for the hosts when Ben Seymour-Shove's free-kick towards the near post was met by Miles Smith whose first-time shot was wide.

An early shot following the restart from Ives' Kelly was held at the second attempt by McCarthy and then Stortford scored the only goal of the match in the 53rd minute.

An attack up the right flank saw Akinyemi cross into the area where, after Freddy Moncur had a close range shot blocked, the ball ricocheted to Foxley who scrambled it into the net.

In the 61st minute, home defender Longden committed a wild late challenge on Richefond just inside the Blues half. There was a short skirmish as players from both sides confronted each other and after referee David Hutton had sent off Longden, Joe Robinson and Ives' Seymour-Shove received yellow cards.

From then on until the end Stortford had chances to extend their lead. Foxley had a deflected shot held by stopper Marsden whilst Moncur's acute angled drive in the 71st minute was stopped by the keeper at the near upright.

A few minutes later the Blues seemed to be sure of a penalty as Tyrique Hyde had his legs whipped away from under him by a defender but referee Hutton waived play on.

Stortford came their closest to doubling the lead in the last minute of normal time. Foxley crossed low into the middle from the left and shots in quick succession from substitute Jason

Williams and Akinyemi were brilliantly saved by Marsden.

The hosts rallied in five minutes of added time with substitute James Hall testing McCarthy and then Aaron Tumwa producing a well timed tackle to stop Seymour-Shove causing potential problems with a threatening run on the right wing.

STORTFORD: Tyler McCarthy; George Casey; Aaron Tumwa; Jordan Westcott; Marvel Ekpiteta; Joe Robinson; Tyrique Hyde; Ryan Richefond; Dipo Akinyemi (Jack Thomas 90+4); Freddy Moncur (Jason Williams 80); Darren Foxley.

Unused substitute: Alex Rogers