

Bishop's Stortford 0 Cambridge United 1
BLUES are still looking for their first pre-season victory, but they produced another encouraging performance against Football League opposition.

It was another promising pre-season workout for Adam Flint's squad as they lost narrowly to a full strength United side with the winning goal coming shortly after the break.

While United boss Joe Dunne took his club's youngsters to Newmarket, the visitors sent what is likely to be their starting line-up at Port Vale to the ProKit UK Stadium, although a second half injury to Jabo Ibehre will have soured the win for them.



As expected the visitors controlled most of the proceedings in midfield and territorially were on top for the 90 minutes.

In windy conditions United's George Taft was close early on following a George Maris corner and Maris was close over the bar after a good move. Then Liam O'Neil wasn't far off target

The Blues first real threat came in the 19th minute as Jack Thomas linked with Jamie Cureton, playing his first match, and the veteran saw his effort turned for a corner by defender Taft.

Elliott Ronto shot over the bar four minutes later whilst a Maris free-kick deflected off the Stortford wall on to the top of the bar on the half-hour.

Stortford settled gradually and in the 39th minute a fine long ball from Ronto found Cureton running for goal and the striker whipped his shot over and wide of keeper David Forde but the ball fell the wrong side of the keeper's right-hand post.



United almost took the lead a minute from the break when Bobby Mason did well to tip a shot from Jabo Ibehre over the bar.



The only goal arrived in the 48th minute as the Blues failed to deal with a corner and Emmanuel Osadebe, brother of Stortford's Chi, worked himself into space to fire low into the corner from eight yards.

The Blues skipper Lewis Dark wasn't far off target soon afterwards but Mason saved from Maris with fifteen minutes left. There was a spell of substitutions and then, before the final whistle, the hosts came close to grabbing an equaliser. First substitute Ike Nzuraba saw a clearance rebound off him and pass a foot over the bar and then in the 82nd minute Johnville Renee's acute angled cross from the left struck the bar and no one was able to convert the rebound.

In the last minute of the match Stortford substitute keeper Klinton Makayabo did well to stop Harrison Dunk net a second for the visitors.



STORTFORD: Bobby Mason (Klinton Makayabo 76); Shabazz Omofe; Johnville Renee; Lewis Dark; Damien Green (Max Brassington 69); Sam Robbins (Joe Robinson 60); Alfie Mason (Dalton Harris 69); Jack Thomas (Jordan Wescott 60); Jamie Cureton (Ike Nzuraba 69); Chi Osadebe; Elliott Ronto (Freddie Oakman 76).

Unused substitute: Younis Farah.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED: David Forde; Jake Carroll; George Taft; Greg Taylor; Gary Deegan; Liam O'Neil; Harrison Dunk; Jabo Ibehre (Sam Bennett 57); Emmanuel Osadebe; George Maris; Louis John.

Unused substitute: Josh Jeché

Aveley 2 Blues 1

A goal in the first minute of added time sent the Blues to a pre-season defeat at the Millers' Parkside Stadium.

The hosts went close to scoring in the opening five minutes of the match as Harry Gibbs, with a header, and Tom Richardson, with a shot, struck the framework of Bobby Mason's goal. Aveley took the lead in the 15th minute with Alex Teniola converting a cross from the right but Stortford were back on level terms four minutes later when Alfie Mason crossed deep from the left to the far upright and Jamie Cureton laid the ball back for Elliott Ronto to volley home.

The score remained level at the break. Five minutes after the restart Richardson again

hit the post for the hosts whilst Alfie Mason had a header cleared off the goal-line soon afterwards following a Ronto corner. There were further near misses at both ends but then Richardson sealed the victory for Aveley cutting in from the right and netting with a fierce shot into the far corner past Klinton Makayabo.

Stortford: Bobby Mason (Klinton Makayabo 75); Shabazz Omofe; Younis Farah; Lewis Dark (Jordan Wescott 46); Sam Robbins (Damien Green 74); Joe Robinson; Alfie Mason; Johnville Renee (Freddie Oakman 64); Jamie Cureton (Chi Osadebe 46 (Max Brassington 74)); Elliott Ronto; Ike Nzuraba. Subs not used: Jack Thomas and Ryan Charles.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0 AFC RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS 4

BLUES concluded their pre-season with a heavy defeat at the hands of their Evo-Stik Premier Division Central opponents. Admittedly Stortford had a few players missing with Lewis Dark, Joe Robinson and Jordan Wescott either injured or on holiday but they looked weak in defence and lacked cohesion going forward.



It was a sixth straight loss for Adam Flint's side, and the major concern will be that Stortford have only found the net twice in 540 minutes of action.

Diamonds' Tom Lorraine forced a low save from Bobby Mason from an angle on the left in the 15th minute and they went ahead just after the half-hour when a defensive error allowed Dan Clifton to slip the ball into an empty net.

Ten minutes later Jack Bowen headed against the bar from a Ben Diamond centre. Then a minute from the break Stortford came close to equalising as Chi Osadebe picked up a Damien Green pass and slipped the ball into the box for Jamie Cureton whose angled shot was just past the far upright.



Oakman 80); Jamie Cureton; Chi Osadebe; Dalton Harris (Johnville Renee 46).

Unused substitute: Tom Robinson, Ethan Barton and Caleb Afoke.

Attendance: 180

Last season's keeper Calum Kitscha came on immediately after the break for his first appearance of the campaign, but one of the first things he had to do was pick the ball out of the net when Ty Ward shot high into the top corner following a cross from Lorraine.

Chi Osadebe went close with an effort at the back post whilst a glancing header from Alfie Mason wasnâ€™t far off target. However, Stortford fell further behind in the 68th minute when Jack Bowen scored with a header and substitute John Dean netted Diamonds' last goal four minutes later.



STORTFORD: Bobby Mason (Calum Kitscha 46); Shabazz Omofe; Max Brassington (Yonis Farah 68); Elliott Ronto; Damien Green; Sam Robbins; Alfie Mason; Jack Thomas (Freddie