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BSFC Academy FC Match Report

Bishop's Stortford FC

Romford Reds



Bishop 's Stortford 2 - 2 Romford Reds : HT 2 - 0

Football Conference Youth Alliance

Both sides came into this fixture at the ProKit UK Stadium without a victory in the League so far this campaign and that statistic was to remain unchanged at the end of ninety minutes. The Blues who included first team squad member Luke Milbourne in the starting line-up dominated the first half to take a two goal lead but the visitors, changing their tactics after the break, improved whilst Stortford went off the boil and at the final whistle the points were shared.

After a number of postponements this was Stortford's first Alliance match for over a month but they settled quickly and had the early edge in midfield although in the first twenty minutes there were no clear cut opportunities created.

In the 21st minute a short free-kick from Ben Smith played to Luke Milbourne was shot just wide of the target by the midfielder. Romford had a few breakaway attacks that came to nothing and then, in the minutes leading up to the half-hour mark, Stortford piled on the pressure. Milbourne had a shot deflected over the bar after Jack Isherwood had crossed in from the right and then Kieran Amos tried a 30 yard attempt at goal that keeper George Martin pushed away for a corner.

In fact the Blues won a succession of corners and Amos headed a foot over the bar from a Luke Milbourne flag-kick. The opening goal arrived in the 31st minute when, with the visiting defence in disarray Jack Isherwood laid the ball across for BEN JAMES to beat Martin with a well directed shot from an angle (1-0).

Mason Naylor could have doubled the Blues advantage shortly afterwards when he missed the target after a good work by Jordan Barra and Jack Isherwood. However, the visitors also missed a chance to equalise in the 41st minute as Ezekwesiri Ibeawuchi cleared the bar from close range following a centre from the left by Alex Akrofi.

Stortford extended their lead a minute before the interval. Bradley Jarvis advanced to strike a 25 yard shot against the angle of the bar and upright and JACK ISHERWOOD was on hand to convert the rebound (2-0).

Half time: 2-0

An early shot from Jordan Barra was turned round the post by Romford stopper George Martin but some sloppiness was creeping into the Blues play and keeper Cameron Robson began to see action holding on to efforts by substitute Charlie Close and Alex Akrofi. It was the lively ALEX AKROFI who pulled a goal back on the hour when he finished off a move down the middle with a shot past Cameron Robson (2-1).

Stortford had the chances to have made the game safe as Joe Milbourne put Ben Smith through in the 69th minute but he

snatched at his shot and the ball went wide. Then Martin saved from Smith and in the 80th minute the visitors' keeper stopped a far post header from Jack Isherwood following a Jordan Barra free-kick.

ALEX AKROFI was a danger for the Blues defence throughout the second half and with five minutes remaining of normal time he set off on a run down the middle that ended with him being fouled by Cameron Robson a few yards inside the penalty box and the striker took the spot-kick himself to equalise (2-2). Akrofi nearly snatched all three points for the visitors in stoppage time but a shot from him was narrowly past the post.

Full time: 2-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Cameron Robson; Jordan Barra; Rene Leacock; Joe Ryan; Bradley Jarvis (sub – Cuney Hassan 64 mins); Kieran Amos; Mason Naylor; Luke Milbourne; Jack Isherwood (sub – Harry Andrews 81 mins); Ben James (sub ó Joe Milbourne 66 mins); Ben Smith.

Unused substitutes: Alex Warman and Declan Button.