

Wednesday 3rd December 2014

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 6, THURROCK 2
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – ESSEX/HERTS
DIVISION)

Playing their first match in a month due to postponements the Academy side won this contest with five goals in the second half including three in the space of three minutes towards the end of the match. There were six different scorers for the Blues.

Stortford had virtually all the possession in a first half of one way traffic and the visitors had no shots at goal to trouble Stortford keeper Stephen Robinson in the first forty five minutes.

In the 10th minute good work by Alex Warman on the right saw him cross to Jack Isherwood and the striker's low effort from 15 yards was saved at his post by Thurrock stopper Ertugrul Yilmaz. Then a cut back by Aaron Thomas from the line gave Isherwood another chance but he scuffed the ball wide of the far upright.

A minute later the skipper had a header held by Yilmaz and Isherwood was again in the action on the half hour when he deflected a Rene Leacock ball into the box goalwards but the keeper got down well to save. A Leacock cross was turned on to the roof of the net by Yilmaz and from the resultant corner by Lukeman Agbomabiwon Jack Isherwood's header was cleared off the line.

The pressure finally told a minute from the break following a good move on the right flank which was rounded off with Alex Warman crossing for an unmarked **AARON THOMAS** to head home from eight yards (1-0).

Half time: 1-0

The play followed a similar pattern on the restart with Tim Moylette's team winning three successive corners and a free-kick taken by Lukeman Agbomabiwon in the 54th minute being well saved by Yilmaz diving full length to his left.

Stortford doubled their tally four minutes later almost as soon as Ben Smith, replacing Mason Naylor, had come on as a substitute. He fastened on to a great pass from Aaron Thomas and cutting into the box from the left was going round the keeper when he lost possession. However, it didn't matter as the ball ran loose to **JACK ISHERWOOD** who netted with a low shot (2-0).

The visitors won their first corner in the 62nd minute and thanks to some sloppy play by the Blues pulled a goal back five minutes later with their first shot at goal. An attack by the visitors on the right ended with **KAYLUM RYAN** beating Stephen Robinson from a narrow angle (2-1).

The Blues youngsters restored their two goal lead with twenty minutes left. A strong run down the left wing by Ben Smith saw him pull the ball back from the line and substitute **JAMIE POWTER** drilled it under the keeper from 15 yards (3-1).

The other substitute Jordan Handscomb was close with a shot saved in the 75th minute but there was then a succession of goals in the final few minutes. Aaron Thomas headed on to the roof of the net from a tight angle following an Alex Warman centre before the goals started to rain in. In the 85th minute a speculative attempt at goal from 35 yards by **DANNY PALMER** went through the fingers of Yilmaz as the stopper tried to hold the ball above his head (4-1).

Then a minute later **BEN JAMES** went on a long run down the left before firing in a low shot into the far corner of the net from just inside the box (5-1). Soon afterwards the sixth and final Stortford goal was scored with **JORDAN HANDSCOMB** collecting Jamie Powter's through pass down the middle and running on to place the ball wide of the keeper (6-1).

There was still time for the visitors to net a second goal, in the 88th minute, as Junior Milla ran clear on the right and crossed for substitute **JORDAN RANDALL** to convert into an empty net (6-2).

Stortford could even have added further goals before the last whistle with Smith, twice, and Handscomb nearly scored again.

Full time: 6-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Stephen Robinson; Ben James; Alex Warman; Lukeman Agbomabiwon (sub – Jamie Powter 66 mins); Alex Askri; Bryn Thorpe; Mason Naylor (sub – Ben Smith 57 mins); Aaron Thomas; Jack Isherwood (sub – Jordan Handscomb 60 mins); Danny Palmer; Rene Leacock.

Unused substitutes: Thomas Beckett and Callum Lynskey.