

Wednesday 7th January 2015

BRAINTREE TOWN BISHOP'S STORTFORD
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – ESSEX/HERTS
DIVISION)

Conceding six second half goals after going ahead before the break meant that the Blues' first match on returning after the Christmas break was a disaster. Stortford had beaten the Iron 4-2 on the opening day of the season and won comfortably but for this fixture it was soon apparent that this was a much stronger side that Braintree sent out. In fact there were only four members of this Braintree side that had played in the opening match at the ProKit UK Stadium.

In the first half of this contest played at Coggeshall Town FC the Blues had the strong wind in their favour. However, the hosts started well and in the fourth minute Matt Baxter forced Stortford stopper Stephen Robinson into a good save turning aside a shot for a corner. Soon afterwards Joe Maybanks was close with a shot past the post.

Stortford took the lead in the 16th minute after a well worked move. Aaron Thomas swept the ball out to Mason Naylor on the left and when Naylor crossed a short ball low into the box **JACK ISHERWOOD** netted with a shot wide of keeper Harry Lewis from ten yards (0-1).

The Blues, however, were unable to build on their one goal advantage and the Iron had the edge in the remainder of the action to the break. Alex Askri cleared a shot from Maybanks off the goal-line in the 25th minute and sixty seconds later Robinson denied the same player with a fine save.

There were a couple of escapes for Stortford in added time before the break. Firstly Luke Mallett shot wide of the target when clean through when he collected a poor back pass and then Robinson saved well again when conceding a corner from a shot by Jack Tyrer.

Half time: 0-1

Matters looked ominous immediately on the restart as the hosts poured forward. Tyrer hit the post in the 53rd minute and two minutes later Braintree equalised following a corner with **JOE MOORE** scoring at the back post (1-1).

After another Braintree corner in the 58th minute the ball came out to Maybanks who hit the bar with a shot from long distance and the woodwork was struck again when Moore headed against the bar. The Iron

then went in front from the next corner in the 63rd minute as **MATT BAXTER** was left unmarked to head into the net (2-1).

At this point, Stephen Robinson was replaced in goal by Tom Beckett but in the 69th minute the replacement keeper was involved in a defensive muddle with Rene Leacock, who had come on for an injured Louis Monk, and **LUKE MALLETT** was able to take advantage and score Braintree's third goal (3-1).

In a rare Stortford attack Aaron Thomas saw his angled shot at goal kept out by keeper Lewis' legs and the Blues fell further behind in the 74th minute with **MATT BAXTER** breaking clear down the middle to fire low past Beckett (4-1).

Another defensive error three minutes from time led to Braintree's fifth goal as Beckett failed to bring Alex Warman's back pass under control and **JOE MAYBANKS** ran the ball into an empty net (5-1).

MATT BAXTER scored the last goal and completed his hat-trick in the last minute of normal time when he fastened on to a through ball down the middle and his excellent shot found the back of the net (6-1).

Full time: 6-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Stephen Robinson (sub – Tom Beckett 64 mins); Alex Warman; Louis Monk (sub – Rene Leacock 54 mins); Lukeman Agbomabiwon (sub – John Clarke 76 mins); Alex Askri; Bryn Thorpe; Mason Naylor; Aaron Thomas; Jack Isherwood; Danny Palmer; Ben Smith
Unused substitutes: None