

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

THURROCK 1, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 3  
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – ESSEX/HERTS  
DIVISION)

Stortford took the points for the second successive week on the road but they had to come from behind to beat the bottom-of-the-league club. The hosts netted a goal a minute from the break as the Blues showed a lack of cohesion and urgency in the first period. But the second half saw a different Stortford as they upped the tempo and ran out comfortable winners by the final whistle.

The Blues, who were without skipper Jack Isherwood, started the brighter facing the wind in the first half at Ship Lane. In the second minute a Ben Smith corner rebounded out to Lukeman Agbomabiwon whose goalbound effort from 15 yards was deflected by a defender over the bar for another corner. Then in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute Thurrock keeper Ertugrul Yilmaz failed to hold a Smith cross and the ball fell loose but Mason Naylor's flick only ended up in the arms of the stopper. Five minutes later a strong tackle from central defender Kalvin Frimpong stopped Smith in front of goal.

Although they created few openings the visitors had the majority of the possession. In the 27<sup>th</sup> minute a header from Aaron Thomas following an Agbomabiwon cross from the right resulted in a fine save from Yilmaz holding on to the ball whilst diving to his left.

In the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute Bryn Thorpe netted at the far post following a corner but it was disallowed for offside and a minute later the hosts went one up. A deep free-kick from Semih Tuna towards the far post was headed back across goal by Junior Mila and **BILLY BRADLEY** nodded past keeper Callum Lynskey who was in the starting line-up and between the sticks for the first time this season (1-0).

Half time: 1-0

Stortford had another goal ruled out five minutes after the restart when Ben Smith found the back of the net from close range and shortly afterwards a glancing header from Aaron Thomas was narrowly wide following a Ben James free-kick.

Pushing forward virtually all the time the equalising goal for Tim Moylette's team finally came in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute. Ben Smith and Mason Naylor worked a short corner on the right before the ball was swung over to the far side of the box where Alex Askri returned the ball with a cross-

cum-shot that Naylor gained control of and squared back for **BRYN THORPE** to fire home for his first goal of the season (1-1).

Ninety seconds later yet another Stortford goal was disallowed. Then in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute Smith was put clear by Naylor down the middle but Smith was foiled by Yilmaz saving at his feet.

Substitute Jordan Handscomb replaced Danny Palmer midway through the second half and a little later, in the 69<sup>th</sup> minute, Stortford went ahead for the first time in the contest. Again Mason Naylor sent a through pass down the middle and this time **AARON THOMAS** ran on to drive the ball into the net (1-2).

Skipper Rene Leacock was narrowly wide with a low effort as the action became almost one way traffic in the closing stages. The third goal arrived in the 76<sup>th</sup> minute following a Mason Naylor corner from the right that was headed in close to the near upright by an unmarked **BEN SMITH** (1-3).

The Blues could have widened the winning margin by the end with Naylor, twice, and Thomas nearly netting again before the final whistle.

Full time: 1-3

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Callum Lynskey; Rene Leacock; Ben James; Lukeman Agbomabiwon; Alex Askri; Bryn Thorpe; Mason Naylor; Danny Palmer (sub – Jordan Handscomb 68 mins); Ben Smith; Aaron Thomas; Alex Warman.

Unused substitutes: None