

Wednesday 29th April 2015

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 3, AFC SUDBURY (YELLOW) 0
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – ESSEX/HERTS
DIVISION)

The Blues' Academy rounded off their home campaign in style with a three goal victory over third in the table Sudbury. A first half goal from Danny Palmer followed by two more after the break from substitute Jordan Handscomb wrapped up the points making it six matches unbeaten since the middle of March.

Stortford made a bright start and for the most part were in control for long periods with keeper Cameron Robson having few alarms. A 30 yard attempt at goal from Rene Leacock in the sixth minute was turned over the bar by Sudbury stopper Daniel Joyce and then three minutes later Jack Isherwood missed a chance to take the lead by shooting straight at the keeper.

Sudbury's Charlie Gilbert volleyed over the top soon afterwards but play was soon back at the other end as Aaron Thomas cut in from the right and his shot was kept out by the legs of Joyce at the expense of a corner. It was from Mason Naylor's resultant flag-kick on the right in the 24th minute that Stortford went one up. The delivery went to the far side of the pitch and after retrieving it Palmer floated the ball into the middle and it finished in the back of the net.

The hosts continued to have the edge on proceedings and were playing positively. Naylor went close with a 20 yard effort and then, in the 37th minute, skipper Isherwood supplied a fine pass down the middle which Aaron Thomas fastened on to and trying to chip the keeper saw Joyce pull off an excellent save stretching and holding the ball high above his head. Close to the break Naylor missed an opportunity when firing wide when yards from goal.

Handscomb replaced the injured Thomas directly after the interval and the substitute was almost on the score-sheet straightaway after Ben Smith set him up with a cross from the right but his rising shot cleared the bar.

In the 53rd minute Sudbury's Gilbert missed out on an equaliser after cutting in from the left flank. He beat a number of defenders only to see Robson half save at the near post and then put the rebound the wrong side of the upright. He was made to pay for the miss as the Blues doubled their lead sixty seconds later. Naylor's pass down the inside left channel was collected by Handscomb whose shot found the net although Joyce did get a hand to the ball,

Another attack ended with Naylor shooting off target and on the hour when Naylor crossed deep from the right Isherwood struck an angled volley inches past the far upright. Minutes later visiting keeper Joyce turned a Lukeman Agbomabiwon 30 yard free-kick for a corner high up at the angle of his near post and bar.

The visitors' dangerman Gilbert was close with a glancing header midway through the second period and then sent a free-kick flashing just wide of Robson's goal with six minutes remaining. The visitors were more in the match in the closing stages but the Blues added a third goal in the final minute of normal time. Palmer found Smith on the left with a fine pass and after running into the box Smith's shot was blocked by Joyce but the ball ran loose for Handscomb to slip into the net from close range (3-0).

Smith again broke through in stoppage time but his shot was straight at and caught by the keeper.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Cameron Robson; Rene Leacock; Ben James; Lukeman Agbomabiwon; Alex Askri; Bryn Thorpe; Mason Naylor (Alex Warman 76 mins); Danny Palmer; Jack Isherwood; Aaron Thomas (Jordan Handscomb 46 mins); Ben Smith.
Unused substitute: Callum Lynskey