

Wednesday 16th September 2015

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2 AFC SUDBURY (REDS) 2
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – DIVISION 'C')

Tim Moylette's Academy side began their Youth Alliance campaign with a share of the points with visitors AFC Sudbury at the ProKit (UK) Stadium. It should have been a better result as the Suffolk team were reduced to ten men after only five minutes action with a player sent-off and by the break the Blues had built up a two goal lead.

However, midway through the second period Antonio Sabini scored from a penalty and then a free-kick in the space of three minutes to level the match.

Stortford were close to taking the lead in the second minute when Jack Thomas headed against a post from a free-kick on the right by Callum O'Brien. Then in the fifth minute George Bartlam sent Aaron Thomas through down the middle but he was brought down by defender Adam Simmonds who was ruled by referee Paul Attfield to be the last man and he sent-off the Sudbury player.

Jordan Brown was close with a shot for Stortford before they went ahead in the 14th minute. An attack up the right finished with Bartlam hitting the post and when the striker turned the rebound back towards goal AARON THOMAS helped the ball over the line (1-0). The goalscorer could have doubled the lead ten minutes later as he broke clear but shot wide of the goal.

With a man extra it was no surprise that the Blues had most of the possession and they doubled their lead a minute from the interval after Callum O'Brien and Jack Thomas had combined on the left and Thomas squared the ball into the box where GEORGE BARTLAM drove the ball into the net (2-0).

Half time: 2-0

Stortford continued on top after the restart and in the 56th minute visiting keeper Aaron Smyth kept out a shot from Bartlam with his legs and then the stopper saved a goal-bound effort from Aaron Thomas. Thomas was even closer just after the hour when his half-volley from 20 yards struck an upright.

Thoughts of a comfortable victory were then destroyed as Sudbury equalised with two goals inside three minutes. In the 63rd minute Jordan Brown fouled Harry McDonald in the box and ANTONIO SABINI converted the resultant penalty (2-1) and soon afterwards when the visitors were awarded a free-kick 25 yards from goal SABINI beat keeper Callum Lynskey with a fine effort (2-2).

The hosts overcame the double blow and piled on the pressure before the final whistle but although were close on a couple of occasions to notching

a winner before the end it didn't materialise and the last action of the contest saw keeper Smyth deny Aaron Thomas with a save at the near post.

Full time: 2-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Callum Lynskey; Lewis McDonald (Joe Senior 60); Callum O'Brien; Jack Thomas; Alex Askri; Bryn Thorpe; Alex Rogers; Danny Palmer (Ross Gill 58); George Bartlam; Aaron Thomas; Jordan Brown.

Unused substitutes: Mitchell Hodgson, Jordan King and Ted Dean.