

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 3, BRENTWOOD TOWN 2
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – DIVISION 'C')

After a gap of six weeks without playing a match for varying reasons the Blues' Academy got back into action in spectacular style with a good all round display that produced their first victory of the season. The result was also Brentwood Town's first league defeat of the campaign.

After an even opening to the contest Stortford settled into a confident spell. In the 20th minute Aaron Thomas gained possession on the left and his low cross rebounded to Jordan Handscomb whose close range effort somehow hit Brentwood defender York Rider on the goal-line and bounced clear. Jordan Brown was then unlucky with a shot well saved by visiting stopper Joel Mutundo and shortly afterwards Aaron Thomas and Danny Palmer both went close. The Blues eventually went ahead in the 39th minute. When Callum O'Brien lofted a free-kick on the left into the front of the box keeper Mutundo seemed to advance too far to punch away and when the ball fell to ALEX ROGERS just outside the box he calmly floated the ball over everyone and under the bar (1-0). Stortford's joy was shortlived however as the visitors equalized two minutes later when a fine 25 yard free-kick from SAM LITTLE beat Stephen Robinson's dive to finish in the corner of the net (1-0).

Half time: 1-1

The Essex side had the edge at the start of the second half and just after the hour Stephen Robinson made a fine save diving to his right to push aside a shot from Brentwood substitute Tariq Braham-Fowler. The Blues gradually got more of a hold on the contest as the half progressed and retook the lead in the 69th minute. A cross from wide on the left by substitute George Bartlam fell to Jordan Handscomb and although the striker's close range shot was cleared off the goal-line by York Rider AARON THOMAS was on hand to drive the loose ball into the net (2-1).

Stortford increased their lead in the 83rd minute when Brentwood lost possession on Blues' left and Bartlam provided the pass for JORDAN HANDSCOMB to run through on goal and drive low into the far corner (3-1).

The hosts were left with a few nervous moments in stoppage time after Brentwood reduced the arrears in the last minute of normal time. Braham-Fowler slipped the ball down the middle and CALLUM HUBBLE finishes with a shot high into the net past Robinson (3-2). However, the Blues held on to take the points.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Stephen Robinson; Lewis McDonald; Callum O'Brien; Danny Palmer; Alex Warman; Bryn Thorpe; Alex Rogers (George Bartlam 65); Jack Thomas (Sam Brown (90+2); Jordan Handscomb (Ted Dean 87); Aaron Thomas (Joe Senior 74); Jordan Brown.

Unused substitute: Sam Philpot