

PETERBOROUGH UNITED 1, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – DIVISION 'C')

After several improved displays since Christmas Stortford's Academy side was finally rewarded with three points as another good performance saw them edge out mid-table Peterborough United in a close match. Stortford were perhaps fortunate that the hosts missed a few chances to equalise late in the contest but overall Tim Moylette's team warranted their victory.

In a match played on a 3G surface at Raunds, Alex Rogers was close with a shot across the face of goal in the Blues' opening attack in the 2nd minute. Then, after the hosts had won a free-kick, Stortford keeper Callum Lynskey dived to his right to turn an attempt at goal round the post for a corner.

Stortford took the lead in the 15th minute after a fine move on the right saw Ben Smith link with Aaron Thomas and when Thomas crossed low into the box SMITH controlled the ball before sending it high into the Posh net (0-1). Three minutes later the score-line was nearly doubled when the Thomas brothers had a spell of inter-passing and Jack Thomas' effort was kept out by keeper Simon Glazebrook's outstretched leg.

The hosts' Aaron Halliday threatened twice – once with a shot on the turn just over and then a header - whilst Alex Warman, after cutting in from the right, was unlucky for Stortford with a deflected attempt at goal.

Peterborough drew level, however, in the 36th minute. A run down the right by Dylan Carter produced a cross that was swept into the net by AARON HALLIDAY (1-1).

Half time: 1-1

Stortford had the best possible start to the second half as they retook the lead within a minute of the restart. Ben Smith found AARON THOMAS with a pass up the right and Thomas carried the ball on a long run leaving several defenders in his wake and finished with shot past Glazebrook that ended in the far bottom corner of the net (1-2).

Ben McLean shot wide for United in the 57th minute and then Stortford substitute Jordan Handscomb was sent clear by Callum O'Brien eleven minutes later but Glazebrook did well to finger-tip the striker's shot behind for a corner.

Stortford had a fortunate escape in the 77th minute as keeper Callum Lynskey misjudged a cross and striker Charlie Parkin's close range shot deflected off of Lynskey against the bar. The Posh pressed in the later stages of the match forcing a number of corners but with Charlie Parkin heading a good chance off target deep into stoppage time Stortford survived to take the points.

Bishop's Stortford: Callum Lynskey; Lewis McDonald; Callum O'Brien; Jack Thomas (Jordan Handscomb 54); Ross Gill; Bryn Thorpe; Alex Rogers; Mason Naylor; Aaron Thomas; Ben Smith; Alex Warman.

Unused substitutes: Ted Dean and Jordan King.