

BRAINTREE TOWN 4, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 3
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – DIVISION 'C')

Stortford let this game slip from their grasp as they lead at one stage 2-1 in the first half and then 3-2 early in the second period in this fixture played at Witham Town's ground in bitterly cold, wet and windy conditions. Having scored their third goal the Blues switched off and hardly threatened the Iron goal for the remainder of the contest.

Hoping to make it a win-double in the midweek Stortford found themselves soon behind with striker JACK TYRER netting with a shot in the 5th minute from outside the box that beat Callum Lynskey (1-0).

Tim Moylette's team quickly got over this early blow and was back on level terms in the 16th minute. Mason Naylor was tripped just outside the box and the free-kick from 23 yards taken by AARON THOMAS was perfectly placed to provide the equaliser (1-1). Two minutes later Ben Smith slipped the ball to Danny Palmer whose shot from distance struck the bar with Jordan Handscomb unable to tuck away the rebound. Jack Thomas nearly scored following a Mason Naylor corner and a Handscomb far post header was wide from a Naylor cross as Stortford went close to extending their lead before the half-hour was up. The second goal came in the 36th minute. Jack Thomas' pass up the left flank was intercepted by the host's Harry Watkins but the defender's back pass to his keeper was under-hit with JORDAN HANDSCOMB gaining possession and although the number nine's first shot hit the legs of keeper Devon Jeggo his second attempt found the net (1-2). The lead was short-lived, however, as three minutes from the break a cross from the left by Tyrer was converted in the middle by FLYNN TARMAN (2-2).

Half time: 2-2

Stortford were playing against the elements in the second half and AARON THOMAS missed out on an early chance but it was Thomas who restored Stortford's lead in the 54th minute. Danny Palmer's cross into the box wasn't controlled by Jordan Handscomb but the ball skidded on to Thomas who drove it past Jeggo from 15 yards (2-3).

Once again Stortford's lead didn't last long with JACK TYRER scoring his second of the afternoon in the 59th minute spotting Callum Lynskey off his goal-line and lifting a shot over the keeper from 25 yards into the top corner (3-3). Braintree's winning goal came after 66 minutes. Matt Baxter and Tyrer were involved in an attack that ended with substitute KOFI GYEBI netting from close range (4-3).

After that reversal of fortunes Stortford hardly mustered a penetrative attack on the home goal and Lynskey had to make stops from substitutes Palvy Manduakila and Lewis Soraf along with Matt Baxter before the final whistle.

Bishop's Stortford: Callum Lynskey; Lewis McDonald; Danny Palmer; Jack Thomas; Ross Gill; Bryn Thorpe; Alex Rogers (George Bartlam 54); Mason Naylor; Jordan Handscomb; Ben Smith; Aaron Thomas (Joe Senior 83).

Unused substitute: Ted Dean.