

BISHOP'S STORTFORD 10, ROMFORD (REDS) 0
(FOOTBALL CONFERENCE YOUTH ALLIANCE – DIVISION 'C')

Blues' Academy went on a goal-spree at the ProKit UK Stadium hammering Romford (Reds) in a match they dominated from start to finish. Stortford were 8-0 up by half time with five of the goals being netted in the space of fifteen minutes before the break. There were two additional goals after the interval against the bottom-of-the-table side and the scoring was completed just after the hour with no further goals added in the final 27 minutes. In addition with the Academy not conceding a goal in the contest this was the first clean sheet recorded this campaign by the Blues.

The first goal arrived in less than a minute. Initially a corner was cleared by the Romford defence but when Mason Naylor crossed the ball back in towards the near post from the right both Ted Dean and JORDAN HANDSCOMB rose to meet the ball but it was the latter's head that sent it into the net (1-0).

Skipper Aaron Thomas was close twice before the lead was doubled in the 11th minute. TED DEAN collected the ball in space about 30 yards out from goal and delivered a great shot that went in via the inside of the keeper's right-hand post (2-0). Handscomb missed a good chance in the 13th minute but three minutes later Alex Rogers crossed in from the left and the ball deflected out to JOE SENIOR who volleyed past keeper Sam Williams from the edge of the box (3-0).

Aaron Thomas then headed against the bar shortly afterwards. A great through ball down the middle from Bryn Thorpe in the 31st minute set up JORDAN HANDSCOMB to advance on goal and shoot past the keeper (4-0). Stortford were entering a purple patch and HANDSCOMB completed his hat-trick in the 35th minute by converting Joe Senior's low cross into the six yard box from the right flank (5-0). Less than a minute later good work by Aaron Thomas enabled JOE SENIOR to cut in from the right and shoot into the far corner of the goal (6-0). Senior was also involved in a short corner routine in the 43rd minute with Mason Naylor to set up the next goal as Naylor made tracks inside and cross for HANDSCOMB to net from point-blank range (7-0).

Handscomb was then the provider a minute later as his pass allowed JOE SENIOR to cut inside from the right and shoot low into the net (8-0).

Half time: 8-0

The goals continued after the start of the second half. TED DEAN, put clear by a Bryn Thorpe, was denied by a fine save by Sam Williams in the 49th minute but he scored two minutes later after fastening on to a Mason Naylor through pass and beating Williams (9-0).

A deep cross from the right by Senior in the 63rd minute found ALEX ROGERS past the back post but Rogers managed to drill the ball into the net from a tight angle (10-0). That completed the scoring but Stortford were close to adding to the total significantly before the end. Substitute Sam Philpot struck the outside of the woodwork with an angled drive in the 71st minute whilst the Reds' stopper Williams saved from Naylor and a follow-up shot from substitute John Clarke soon afterwards.

The Essex side nearly netted a consolation goal in the 74th minute but Blues' keeper Steve Robinson saved a close range shot from Tom Lambert. Joe Senior and substitute Jordan King had shots saved by Williams before the final whistle whilst Bryn Thorpe was narrowly wide with a header.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Stephen Robinson; Danny Palmer; Alex Rogers (Sam Philpot 65); Mason Naylor; Ross Gill; Bryn Thorpe; Louis Monk; Aaron Thomas; Jordan Handscomb (Jordan King 58); Ted Dean (John Clarke 65); Joe Senior.
Unused substitutes: Callum O'Brien and George Bartlam