

Frenford 0 Tilbury 3 Saturday 30th September 2023 Essex Senior League

Report by Mason Hutchinson

The Dockers looked to complete an unbeaten month as they travelled to Frenford for some Essex Senior League action. Tilbury came into the game sitting 8th in the league standings and 6 points ahead of their opponents who occupied 17th. There was only one change to the starting lineup from last week's FA Vase fixture against Baldock Town as Anthony Page was back in between the sticks.

The visitors got the game's first chance, coming in just the 6th minute when Joynes played a one-two with Tom Salter to create space for himself on the left flank. The full-back delivered a low cross which made its way to Donovan, but the midfielder couldn't connect as he would've liked, and the save was simple enough for the keeper.

Tilbury came forward once again and it was a beautifully crafted chance that saw Harvey Brown knock the ball around the corner for Roman Campbell to run onto. Campbell put in a first-time cross toward the back post where, once again, Harry Donovan was arriving, and this time the midfielder's effort didn't test the keeper.

But The Dockers would eventually break Frenford's resistance in the 39th minute with a floated ball over the defence that caused problems for the hosts. The pass came from deep as Browne sent it toward Roman Campbell, who managed to flick his header on target. The effort looked a simple enough one for the keeper to save, but the ball rolled over him and apologetically crawled over the line.

Tilbury looked comfortable heading into the break, but the second half was a different story as we saw the home side grow into the game. And they almost found an equaliser when a corner headed for the near post and was met by the skipper, Sam Cross, who put his header just over the crossbar.

Marc and Liam looked to the bench to try to relieve some of the pressure and introduced Dan Trendall, looking to utilise his pace in behind. And the plan almost worked perfectly when Trendall was slotted through and calmly put away his chance. But the linesman had raised his flag and the goal was disallowed, and Trendall received a booking for carrying on after the whistle.

The 76th minute, saw Frenford test Anthony Page for the first time, with a strike from distance that dipped just in time to beat the crossbar. But Page was alert and tipped the ball over the bar and out of harm's way.

Then, with 10 minutes to go, substitute Dan Trendall did get his goal to double his side's lead. It came from fellow substitute, Brian Moses, who danced past three men before finding Trendall who beat the offside trap perfectly. The winger then sat the keeper down and fired into the empty net, before being taken out off the ball by a frustrated defender.

The second half was a good one for players off the bench, as Igli Metalia did exceptionally well to evade two challenges and drill in a low cross to Roman Campbell. But the striker couldn't find the target.

Then in the dying moments the game was put to bed as Metalia was fouled inside the penalty area after skipping past the first challenge. Roman Campbell stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong way to fire his strike into the bottom left corner, getting his brace and confirming the 3 points for Tilbury.

That was all the action and the win meant that Tilbury were unbeaten in September and look to have gained a lot of momentum ahead of a busy October. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 7th September as we host Stanway Rovers for a 3pm kick off in the league.

SQUAD: Page, McQueen, Joynes, Hayes, Martin, Donovan (Metalia), Spooner, Carter, Browne (Moses), Salter (Trendall) (Mokwenye), Campbell.

SUBS UNUSED: North.

GOALS: Campbell x 2, Trendall