

Tilbury 2

Hullbridge Sports 0

Essex Senior League

Saturday 23rd March 2024

ATT - 230

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Tilbury introduced three new names to the squad as we hosted Hullbridge Sports and attempted to break our three game run without a win. Alex Akrofi and Shae Hutchinson both made Marc and Liam's starting eleven for their debuts while Roman Campbell filled in at centre half to cover for injuries and suspensions.

Hullbridge started the game with a half-volleyed effort from the edge of the area which travelled through a sea of bodies. Christian North saw the strike late and managed to get down to his left to make a good save.

The Dockers looked much more comfortable in attack from recent games and almost took the lead inside 15 minutes. Debutant Alex Akrofi was quick to close down the keeper and managed to beat him to the ball. As his effort rolled toward the empty net it was incredibly cleared off the line by Michael Agboola.

However, the visitors were lively on the break and managed to cut open Tilbury's defence and slide the ball through to Artmeladze. The winger bared down on goal and as he attempted to take the ball around the keeper, Christian North stuck out a strong right arm to snatch the ball from the attacker's feet and get rid of the danger.

Right on the stroke of halftime, Tilbury's number 9, Roman Campbell was the target from Macauley Joynes' corner. Campbell's headed effort was saved by the keeper but he was gifted a second bite of the cherry as the rebound fell to his feet. However, that strike was also denied by Bradley Davison.

But the Tilbury faithful did not have to wait long after the break to see their side take the lead when Harry Donovan's delicate flick round the corner found Alex Akrofi who bared down on goal and found the net to score The Docker's first goal in four matches.

In the 74th minute, new man, Shae Hutchinson, battled brilliantly to dispossess the defender and run through with just the keeper to beat. However, he was tripped and fouled by Michael Ogboola who was given his marching orders from the referee. Tilbury managed to find the net from the resulting

set piece as Hutchinson's header looped over the keeper, but the linesman's flag was up instantly to disallow the goal.

Hullbridge continued to battle as they searched for an equaliser, but deep into stoppage time, the hosts sealed their victory courtesy of a Troy Osei-Bobie strike. Oli Spooner collected the ball just inside the area on the left-hand side and cut the ball back to Osei-Bobie. The substitute kept his cool and beat his man before drilling his shot under the keeper to put Hullbridge to bed.

That was all the action at Chadfields and Tilbury were finally back on winning ways and one step closer to the league title. The Dockers are back in action on Tuesday 26th March as we host Barking for a 7.45pm kick-off.

SQUAD: North, Fry, Joynes, Campbell, Hall, Donovan, Spooner ©, Carter (Osei-Bobie), Hutchinson (Placid), Ibe, Akrofi (Clark).

SUBS UNUSED: Knight, Browne.

GOALS: Alex Akrofi, Troy Osie-Bobie