

Tilbury 5 Ilford 0 Tuesday 17th October 2023 Essex Senior League ATT 170

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following our biggest victory of the season on Friday, it was time for Tilbury to try to defend their 7-game unbeaten streak again. And Tuesday's challenge was against 16th place Ilford who were coming off a heavy 5-1 defeat at the hands of Athletic Newham. Only one change was made to Marc and Liam's side as Tobi Adegunle moved to the bench and was replaced by Macauley Joynes who returned from holiday.

It was a dream start for The Dockers, taking the lead inside just 9 minutes through Dan Trendall. Oli Spooner started the move as his aggressive press won the ball back in a dangerous area before the skipper played a square pass for Trendall to drill into the bottom corner.

And it didn't take long for Tilbury to double their lead when Harry Donovan held his run to stay onside as he received a ball down the right wing. Donovan drove toward the by-line before finding Clark with space inside the area. Two defenders were quick to shut him down, but Clarky intelligently rolled the ball back into Campbell's path for him to fire a left-footed strike past the keeper.

Looking for a quick response, Ilford tried to focus their attack down the right and almost found joy when a whipped cross wasn't claimed by the keeper. The ball fell to Joe Lilly, but the following volleyed effort was blazed over the crossbar.

It seemed like everything Tilbury touched turned to gold as they extended their lead even further when an Alex Clark wonder strike from 40 yards looped over the keeper. What a way to mark your home return!

But Tilbury weren't done there and just before half-time they found a fourth as a free kick was whipped in deep to the back post. Connor Martin was the man arriving and the defender dove in to score his second goal in two games.

The hosts picked up right where they left off with a floated corner deep into the area. The first header was back across goal as the ball fell to Roman Campbell who emphatically fired home from close range for his brace.

The visitors, looking for a consolation, once again tried their luck down the right flank. A low cross was almost bundled in by Asamoah before the ball fell to Ejakita who failed to find the target.

That was all the action at Chadfields and a dominant display for The Dockers saw them climb to fourth in the Essex Senior League standings and just 4 points off the top spot. Tilbury are back in action on Saturday 21st October as we travel to face Sawbridgeworth for a 3pm kick off, in the FA Vase.

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

SUBS UNUSED: Adegunle.

GOALS: Campbell x 2, Trendall, Clark, Martin.