

Tilbury 0 FC Romania 5 Saturday 5th August Extra Preliminary Round Emirates FA Cup

This weekend was FA Cup weekend and meant a trip up to Cheshunt as we faced FC Romania in our first away match of the season. Two new signings made by Tilbury during the week and both Joynes and Moses made the squad with Joynes being named in the starting 11. Spooner, Miles, and Hope all returned to the starting squad with Dan Trendall returning from injury to find himself on the bench for the first time this season.

A decent start by The Dockers was quickly flipped by the hosts when they found an early opener after 7 minutes. A quick break by Romania saw Spooner commit a foul on the edge of the penalty area, which the number 10 curled into the near side top corner to open the scoring. The hosts came close again in the 17th minute when the right winger skipped past a challenge and cut the ball back to arriving support, but the shot was brilliantly blocked by Burton.

The home side did find the second goal just a minute later though when the goal scorer for the opener calmly squared the ball across for the striker to tap the ball home into the empty net and double Romania's lead.

It took till the 21st minute for Tilbury to create a real threat on goal when Donovan did exceptionally well to find Ashman making a run through the middle. The winger brought the ball down with his chest and struck a volley which looped over the keeper but did not come down in time as it struck the top of the crossbar.

As it seemed to be a day where everything FC Romania touched turned into goals, they netted a third in the 26th minute through the number 9 once again. The chance started with a great showcase of skill from the number 11 as he danced through the midfield before picking out the striker one-on-one, giving a perfect chance to fire past Page for his brace.

The fourth was quick to follow when a drilled ball across the face of goal struck Folan and bounced into the net to give the hosts a 4-goal lead in their opening FA Cup fixture. Just before the break, substitute Tom Salter looked to inspire as his touch past two men gave him acres of space to move into as he released Johnny Ashman on the right. Ashman bared down on his marker entering the penalty area before his eventual shot was beaten away by the keeper.

FC Romania netted their fifth on the hour-mark when they broke quickly from a Tilbury set piece. With The Dockers committing men forward, it left the home side with a 4 on 1 which was impossible to fumble as the number 11 was the man who finished the chance off.

The visitors came close when a free kick was headed out only as far as Salter who struck a fantastic half volley which headed for the far corner, but the keeper was down well to deny any consolation for Tilbury.

Then, in the dying moments, FC Romania were awarded a penalty which the number 9 fought his teammates to take in search of his hat trick. But he was denied of the match ball when Anthony Page did brilliantly well to dive the right way and stop the striker netting his third of the game.

That was all the action on a rainy afternoon in Cheshunt, as the result meant that Tilbury's FA Cup run was over as quickly as it started. Some positives to take for The Dockers was Miles and Trendall both looked sharp following injuries that had kept them both out for the season openers. But Tilbury could not dwell on the defeat for too long as matches are coming thick and fast with us travelling to Barking on Tuesday 8th August for a 7.45pm kick off.

SQUAD: Page, Folan, Joynes, Donovan, Hayes, Burton (Salter), Ashman (Trendall), Spooner, Miles (Moses), Hope, Leach.

SUBS UNUSED: North, Fry, Antoine, Howson.

Report by Mason Hutchinson