

Tilbury 2

Woodford Town 3

Saturday 6th April 2024

Essex Senior League

Attendance – 260

Report by Mason Hutchinson

As Tilbury continued their title charge, the next challenge was against second placed Woodford Town. Marc and Liam made just one change from the side that defeated West Essex as Connor Martin replaced Alfie Fry.

The Dockers saw a nightmare start to the game when Connor Martin was given his marching orders for a challenge on the edge of the area.

Things went from bad to worse when captain, Oli Spooner, was handed a 10-minute sin bin for bouncing the ball after a decision from the referee.

Despite having the wind behind them and a 2-man advantage, Woodford failed to make the extra men count as Tilbury defended brilliantly to keep the score 0-0 going into half time.

The hosts were able to open the scoring as villain turned hero, Oli Spooner unleashed a goal of the season contender, left-footed rocket into the top right-hand corner.

The Dockers almost netted a second instantly after the first when Shae Hutchinson was slotted through with just the keeper to beat. Hutchinson attempted to lift his effort over the keeper, but unfortunately the ball bounced just wide.

Tilbury then found their second goal as Macauley Joynes' corner was nodded down by Jack McQueen and prodded over the line by Sam Carter.

It is impossible to find the words to describe the final 20 minutes of the game, as the madness started with Woodford Town receiving a penalty. It also came with a red card for Jack Hayes who was deemed to have used his hand to clear the ball of the line. Sollosi stepped up and scored for the visitors.

The Woods came close to levelling the game but were denied by the outstretched leg of Harry Girling. The resulting corner however, found former Docker, Eli Benoit who headed home against the 9-men of Tilbury.

With 10 minutes of the game remaining, Callum Ibe committed a foul on the edge of the area with the player falling into the box. The referee pointed to the spot and Sollosi was handed another opportunity from 12 yards. Harry Girling pulled off a brilliant save to deny him, but Sollosi was first to react and turn home the rebound. In the aftermath, Callum Ibe was sent off, leaving Tilbury with 8 players on the pitch.

SQUAD: Girling, McQueen (Knight), Hayes, Martin, Joynes, Donovan (Bell), Spooner, Carter (Fry), Hutchinson (Browne), Ibe, Campbell.

SUBS UNUSED: Clark

GOALS: Oli Spooner, Sam Carter