

Saffron Walden Town 0

Tilbury 5

Tuesday 26th November 2024

BBC Essex Senior Cup Fourth Round

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Tilbury suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Waltham Abbey on Saturday, but they had their chance to right their wrongs in Essex Senior Cup action against the familiar faces of Saffron Walden. Marc and Liam made a few changes to the side with Jack Hayes, Kieran Jones and Lindell Stewart all returning to the starting 11.

The Dockers took an early lead when, keeper, O'Sullivan gave the ball to Alex Hernandez. The striker saw his effort blocked but Lindell Stewart came in to punish the mistake.

Saffron Walden thought they had found a swift response after some brilliant work by Graham who worked the ball out wide. A low cross was turned in at the front post but the linesman was quick to raise his flag and silence the home crowd.

The visitors came close to adding a second when Jack Hayes' clearance was over the Saffron Walden defence and into the path of Alex Hernandez who kept himself onside. However, he was unable to find the target.

Tilbury doubled their lead after 23 minutes thanks to yet another goalkeeper error. Dan Trendall was quick to close down O'Sullivan who could clear only as far as Kieran Jones. The midfielder shifted the ball onto his right foot and cannoned a strike into the top right corner.

On the stroke of halftime, Tilbury were almost out of sight as Jack Hayes rose above everybody to meet Macauley Joynes' corner, but his header bounced just wide of the far post.

5 minutes after the break, Kieran Jones got his second goal of the night when he was on hand to poke home following a long throw by Oli Spooner that was flicked on by Lewis Clark.

With 20 minutes remaining, Tilbury extended the deficit further as Alex Hernandez's free kick struck the bar before hitting O'Sullivan on the back and nestling in the Saffron Walden goal.

As the game approached stoppage time The Dockers well and truly put the game to bed thanks to, substitute, Sam Bantick who netted his second goal in two games and twelfth of the season. Kieran Jones topped off a brilliant performance by winning the ball back before feeding Alex Hernandez with his back to goal. Hernandez did well to hold off the defender and set the ball across to Bantick who chopped back on his left foot and calmly found the bottom corner.

In the dying moments, Saffron Walden worked the ball down the right-hand side and squared the ball across to Ofori just inside the penalty area. His strike looked certain to grab a consolation for the hosts but, debutant, Jake Weston did exceptionally well to get in front of the shot and secure the clean sheet.

That was all the action at Catons Lane and Tilbury sent themselves through to the Quarter-Finals. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 30th November as we travel to Cambridge City to debut their new stadium.

SQUAD: Hughes, McQueen (Fry), Joynes (Weston), Hayes, Clark L, Spooner (Metalia), Brodie (Clark J), Jones, Trendall (Bantick), Stewart, Hernandez.

GOALS: Kieran Jones x 2, Lindell Stewart, Sam Bantick, O'Sullivan (OG).