

Tilbury 3 Baldock Town 0 Saturday 23rd September 2023 FA Vase ATT 160

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a convincing three–nil victory on the road for The Dockers against Takeley, they welcomed Spartan South Midlands side, Baldock Town, to the EMR Stadium for the Second Round Qualifying in the FA Vase. Both sides came into the game undefeated in their last four matches, which set up an exciting cup tie. There were just a couple of changes to the lineup for Tilbury, with Tom Salter returning to action in place of the unwell Alfie Fry. There was also a change between the sticks with Christian North making his second start of the season as he looked to build on his clean sheet against Saffron Walden in the Essex Senior Cup.

The first real chance of the game came in the 24th minute and went the way of the hosts when Roman Campbell's strike from distance tested the keeper and forced a save leading to a corner, which Baldock were able to deal with. Not long later, Tilbury came close to opening the scoring when Harvey Browne was given his first real chance to run at his full-back. The winger laid the ball inside to Harry Donovan who evaded two challenges and drilled an effort that rolled whiskers away from nestling into the bottom corner.

But Tilbury's goal did come when Tom Salter received a short corner on the left-hand side of the pitch. Salter chopped past his man and onto his right foot where he delivered a whipped ball to the far post. However, the ball managed to dodge all the bodies in its way and creep into the net to put The Dockers ahead.

Then the home side doubled their lead in the 64th minute as Roman Campbell found space on the left to drive toward the goal with just the keeper to beat. The striker had his first strike denied but made no mistake as he netted the rebound for his side's second of the game.

And he should have had his brace after Moses split the defence with a ball into Campbell's feet inside the area. Unfortunately, the striker couldn't find the target from 12 yards out.

Baldock came close to a consolation in stoppage time when Devine's free kick was saved brilliantly by Christian North. The opposing keeper stayed in the area for the resulting corner. And he would regret the decision when the ball was cleared and an Igli Metalia wonder strike from 35 yards.... Rolled into the empty net to seal the win.

That was all the action at Chadfields and the victory meant that Tilbury were through to the next round of the FA Vase in comfortable fashion. The win also meant that Tilbury's unbeaten run had extended to five matches. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 30th September as we travel to face Frenford for a 3pm kick-off.

SQUAD: North, McQueen, Joynes, Hayes, Martin, Donovan, Spooner, Carter (Metalia), Salter (Trendall), Browne (Moses), Campbell.

SUBS UNUSED: Page, Fry.