

Tilbury 1 Grays 1 ATT 510

Off the back of an emphatic 3-1 victory over Sudbury, the Dockers host local rivals Grays to Chadfields for this Isthmian League fixture. 19 points separated the two Thurrock sides as the visitors are currently fighting for promotion and hoped for three points from today's game.

Grays started the game as the stronger of the two sides as in the 2nd minute David Knight whipped a free kick towards the top corner that keeper George Martin batted away, and the recycled cross by Melaugh was dealt with by Shogbeni. Tilbury didn't wait long to create a chance of their own through Anderson who drove down the right-hand side before playing a one-two with Charles Brown. The full back saw himself with enough space for a cross that was unfortunately unable to be converted.

The 7th minute saw Blues keeper, Danny Sambridge, play a driven ball down the right to kickstart an attack. After some work around the box a shot was fired in that hit Knight on the way through giving the number 10 an easy 6-yard finish. However, he was stood in an offside position and the game remained goalless. Straight from the freekick, the ball was played to Roman Campbell who held up play very well before releasing Brown on the right. Brown gave Campbell the return pass, finding him brilliantly, but Roman doesn't have enough time to trouble the keeper. The rebound is collected by Brown who strikes towards goal but is blocked by the resilient Grays defence.

Tilbury began controlling the game with some good football in the middle of the park, presenting what manager Eljay Worrell is trying to do with the team. However, Grays broke in the 21st minute through Aron Gordon whose cross found Knight to head towards goal but George Martin pulled off a brilliant save to prevent the visitors taking the lead. The 37th minute saw another chance for the blues as a hopeful ball forward had Allen and Chukwu chasing. As Allen attempted to clear he was pushed in the back, making him score an own goal. This was disallowed to keep the game level despite Grays finding the net twice.

The Dockers started the second half lively as they won a free kick in the 51st minute. There was no question as to who was going to take it as Lee Noble placed the ball. He struck it beautifully, but it ended up just wide of the far post.

The 65th minute was another chance for Grays as Gordon won the ball at the by-line on the left-hand side as he cut the ball back to the edge of the box as Chukwu was arriving. He opened his body too much and placed the shot wide to give a disappointing end to a great chance.

5 minutes later Campbell beat his man on the left with a nutmeg before putting a low ball in, but the chance comes to nothing after a blocked shot. Tilbury kept up this pressure as Roman Campbell had another shot brilliantly blocked by the Grays defence to put it out for a corner. The resulting set piece was cleverly played along the floor towards the edge of the box by Lee Noble, but the shot on goal was somehow not bundled in despite the home side's efforts.

You could sense a goal was coming and in the 84th minute, Campbell flicked on a long kick from the keeper towards Brian Moses who is brought down by the keeper and wins a penalty for the Dockers. Charles Brown stepped up and in the 85th minute fired home emphatically to give Tilbury the lead.

Unfortunately, what proceeded this was a fight that broke out in the stands between the two sets of fans. This obviously delayed the game until the situation was dealt with and was safe for play to resume. Following the restart, it was all Grays and in stoppage time Aron Gordon found Callum Leahy unmarked in the box who headed home to level up the game late on.

That was all the action at the EMR stadium today as the points as well as the honours were shared in a very exciting and entertaining game between the local sides. Tilbury are back in action on Saturday 2nd April away to Heybridge Swifts at 3pm.

SQUAD: Martin, Anderson, Peart, Brown (Jeremiah), Shogbeni, Allen, Millar, Noble, Campbell, Moses, Brown

SUBS UNUSED: Metalia, Harris, Nelson, Upton

Report by Mason Hutchinson

