

Tilbury 0
Ipswich Wanderers 1
Isthmian League North
Saturday 10th August 2024
ATT 225

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a week of FA Cup action it was finally time for Tilbury to kickstart their Isthmian League season. It was a new opponent for Marc and Liam as they made just one change from last week's starting eleven, with Alfie Fry returning to replace Jordan Clark. Igli Metalia, David Knight and David Bell also returned to the bench.

After a very quiet start to the game, the first piece of action went in Ipswich Wanderers' favour as the hero of last week, Sam Bantick, was shown two yellow cards in quick succession.

The first real chance of the game also went the way of the visitors as Kai Fletcher intercepted a back pass on the edge of Tilbury's penalty area. Fortunately for The Dockers, Fletcher's strike was blazed over the crossbar.

On the stroke of halftime, the hosts had a golden opportunity to take the lead but Lewis Manor was unable to take his chance and the score stayed level as we entered the break.

In the 52nd minute, The Wanderers came close to finding the opener with a cross towards Rashid Salau. However, his close range header was brilliantly denied by Christian North who managed to tip the effort onto the crossbar.

Tilbury worked the ball up the other end and spread play out wide to Alex Akrofi. The winger wriggled his way toward the goal line but between himself and Jamie Reynolds, they were somehow unable to bundle the ball into the net.

With 20 minutes remaining, Ipswich Wanderers finally broke down Tilbury's resistance but it took a wonder strike from Iuri Fernandes to do so. The ball rolled to Fernandes from 25 yards out and the midfielder cannoned his shot into the top left-hand corner.

Searching for an equaliser, The Dockers sent forward a long free kick to Lewis Manor in the box. Manor nodded the ball back across the face of goal where Lewis Clark waited for a tap-in. But Craig Brand somehow managed to throw himself at the ball and pulled off an incredible save to win his side the game.

That was all the action at the EMR Stadium and Tilbury's league campaign ended in defeat. The Dockers are back in action on Saturday 17th August as we return to FA Cup action, hosting Stanway Rovers in the Preliminary Round.

SQUAD: North, Fry (Metalia), Joynes ©, Martin, Clark, Donovan, Carter, Reynolds (Agunbiade), Bantick, Akrofi (Trendall), Manor.

SUBS UNUSED: Bell, Knight.