

Woodford 0 Tilbury 4 Friday 13th October 2023 Essex Senior League

Report by Mason Hutchinson

Following a disappointing draw at home to bottom-of-the-league Coggeshall Town, it was time for Tilbury to take on the undefeated outfit of league leaders, Woodford Town. A cold, windy, and rainy night was the setting for this Essex Senior League clash as The Dockers looked to close the gap on the teams above. Marc and Liam made a few changes to the side with Connor Martin returning from injury and Page replacing North in between the sticks. And returning Docker, Alex Clark, found himself in the starting eleven after making his move back to Chadfields during the week.

Tilbury's start to the game was everything they could have hoped for, taking the lead after just 5 minutes when Dan Trendall latched onto a ball over the defence. The winger fired his effort into the far corner to stun the hosts, who have looked untouchable throughout the start of the season.

The Dockers then came close again when Adekunle's cross was cleared away but only as far as Alfie Fry on the edge of the area. The young full-back hit a first-time volley which whistled past the bottom left corner. And soon after, Tilbury saw another chance go begging as Alex Clark burst past two defenders to deliver a low cross. But the ball fizzed on the wet surface to just evade the foot of Campbell.

Then the game went from bad to worse for The Woods when Bolovan was shown his marching orders for a second yellow card offense. And using the man advantage, Tilbury won a free kick on the left-hand side of the area as Trendall was brought down. Adekunle stepped up and whipped a low strike on target which found the net with help from a deflection off the defender to deceive the keeper.

On the stroke of half-time, the visitors found a third when Trendall battled brilliantly to win possession in the opposition area before calmly slotting home for his second of the game and giving Woodford an even more difficult job to do in the second half.

5 minutes after the break, Hayes switched the play to Alex Clark on the left wing, who wanted a goal on his return. Clarky drove inside to get away from his marker, but his shot couldn't find the far corner.

The home side began to grow into the game but couldn't muster up any chances to trouble Pagey in goal. With 4 minutes to play, the game was put to bed as Connor Martin made a darting run at the back post, picked out perfectly by the substitute, Harvey Browne. The defender was on hand to knock the ball into the goal to secure a fantastic win for his side.

Searching for a consolation, George Thompson showcased a beautiful weaving run as he took the ball around the keeper. However, the striker was forced wide and couldn't hook the ball goalward.

That was all the action at Ashton's, and it was a FOURmidable outing for Tilbury as they secured their biggest win of the season to hand Woodford their first league defeat. The Dockers are back in action on Tuesday as we host Ilford for a 7.45pm kick-off.

SQUAD: Page, Fry, Adekunle, Martin, Hayes, Donovan, Carter (Metalia), Spooner, Clark (Salter), Trendall (Browne), Campbell.

SUBS UNUSED: North, Mokwenye.

GOALS: Trendall x 2, Adekunle, Martin.

