

Match Report - 2/9/07 by Andy the Manager

Dartford FC U18's 2 - Thamesmead Town 1 Kent Youth League - Central Division

The new crop of U18's made their league debut at home against Thamesmead Town after a fantastic run of 6 straight pre-season wins things started to get serious with 3 points up for grabs.

Dartford started much the better side and passed the ball about well leading to some excellent wide play, most notably by Luke White. One of a number of good crosses was met by a powerful header by James Jordan but the ball looped back off the bar, only for Jordan Keenleyside to put the ball wide. Dartford dominated the 1st half and despite some well worked openings and some shots from distance, we couldn't find that opening goal.

2nd half started much the same and the deadlock was broken in the 50th minute with a well placed shot back across the keeper into the far corner by Danny Crouch. The Young Darts continued to dominate the game with their better passing and movement. However, a hopeful ball over the top, left Tom Parkinson chasing the ball back to his own goal with the Thamesmead forward between him and the ball. Parkinson lost his feet and stumbled catching the Thamesmead player about 20 yards out from goal. From the resulting free-kick, in the 70th minute, a well struck shot went through the wall and left The Darts goalkeeper, Deren Ibrahim, looking on helplessly. Despite being against the run of play, you cannot give players at this level a helping hand as they will soon take advantage. In the 75th minute, JoJo Baiden came on for Jordan Keenleyside to offer us more width on the right hand side. Further subs were made with Callum Nye replacing Jack Walter and Rob Carter replacing Danny McNeill-Nash. The reward was almost instant, when a run into the box by Baiden, resulted in a pass, that ended up at the feet of Danny Crouch who slotted the ball home through a crowd of players in the 85th minute. There was one other opportunity for the visitors but some great defending by Harley Forbes, ensured that Thamesmead didn't add to their tally.

It was a solid performance that promised more than the 2 goals for Dartford but a win is a win and the 3 points were no more than Dartford deserved.

Team:- Deren Ibrahim, Danny McNeill-Nash (Rob Carter 77), Lewis Sutherland, Harley Forbes, Tom Parkinson, Sean Heather (C), Jordan Keenleyside (JoJo Baiden 75), Danny Crouch, James Jordan, Jack Walter (Callum Nye 80), Luke White

Subs not used: Sami Cass Kadri, Bill Senington

Man of the match: Danny Crouch

Attendance: Approx 70 (check with Dave Skinner!!)



MOTM:- Danny Crouch