

Maidstone Utd 1 Dartford FC 3

Kent Youth League - Central Division

Dartford made the trip to Maidstone looking to avenge their 4-2 defeat earlier in the season. However, for the third week running we were hampered by the absence of two key players on the morning of the match. A minutes silence for remembrance day was acknowledged impeccably by both sides and the match commenced. It wasn't the most ideal pitch or weather conditions for a football match and Dartford struggled to cope with the conditions in trying to get their passing game going. Captain, Sean Heather was taken off after 10 minutes, due to an injury and was replaced by Jordan Keenleyside, who was maybe a little unlucky not to start anyway. To be fair the first 15 minutes was shaded by the home side, but once we learnt to challenge for the first and second ball, we started to get a foot hold in the game and started to spread the ball about and use our wings, which we do so well. The last 15 minutes of the 1st half was all Dartford and we were unfortunate not to take the lead before half-time, instead having to settle for plenty of corners and a good deal of possession in the Maidstone half. **Half-time score 0-0** - *The half time talk concentrated on holding the ball better up front, the service into the forwards and trying to ensure that we crossed from areas level with the penalty area.*

The first goal came after about 60 minutes, when a cross from the left was allowed to travel across the area where Callum Nye steadied himself before rifling the ball home. 5 minutes later, a corner from the left was met with a thumping header by Ashley Issuree, the ball came back off the bar and the same player controlled and fired the ball through a crowd of players to score his first goal for the club. The score now 0-2. After some great work by Callum Nye in the right hand channel, he laid the ball across but Sami Kadri could only watch as the surface played its part in sending the ball wide. On a rare Maidstone attack into our box, a Maidstone player was upended and the penalty was put away to make it 1-2. The young Darts soon restored their 2 goal lead when Danny Crouch rifled home from 12 yards. This was Danny's 12th goal in 12 games. Ashley Issuree then suffered a bad tackle and was replaced by Daniel McNeill-Nash. This was another great team effort where we had to overcome tricky conditions, a tricky surface and the usual problem of coming up against older, more physical players. There was some very good individual performances namely Jack Walter, Jordan Keenleyside & Lewis Sutherland but **Man of the Match** was **Ashley Issuree** but this was little consolation for the cut shin that he received towards the end of the game. This result has now taken the U18's 2nd in the league.

Team:- Deren Ibrahim, Jack Walter, Lewis Sutherland, Ashley Issuree (Daniel McNeill-Nash 80), Mat Wanless, Sean Heather (Jordan Keenleyside 10), JoJo Baiden, Danny Crouch (C), James Jordan, Callum Nye, Sami Kadri

Subs not used:- Grant Wilks, Billy Senington

Goals:- Callum Nye (60), Ashley Issuree (65), Danny Crouch (75)



MOTM:- Ashley Issuree

Next U18's match: Princes Park, 25th November
KCFA Youth Cup (2nd Round) vs Snodland Nomads - 11am Kick off.