

Dartford Vs. Guru Nanak U18

Played at AEI Sports Ground, Gravesend on Sunday 19th October

Team: Molloy, Walter, Sutherland, King, Eves, Heather ©, Nash, Crouch, Bent, Eyers, Heffernan. Subs: Issuree, Ayoola, Jordan.

Goals:- Bent (4), Heffernan (3), Nash, Crouch, Eyers

MOTM:- Frazer Bent

After last weeks' disappointing loss to Corinthian, a result that saw Corinthian push Dartford down to second in the table, it was good to have a chance to put last weeks' game behind us and get back to winning ways. The AEI pitches are quite narrow but at this time of year the surfaces are generally pretty good so it was pleasing to see an ideal surface for our style of play. The hosts for the game, Guru Nanak, are in their first season in the Kent League. As a club they are well established for the Indian Community and they have sides from mini-soccer through to the Vandanel Kent League for adults.

There wasn't much of a slope on the pitch, but what little slant there was provided Dartford with the advantage in the first half. Right from the whistle Dartford were on the front foot and the positive start was rewarded when Danny Nash beat the keeper with a shot from the corner of the box. This was following on from a free kick that was initially blocked. To be fair Danny is known more for great crosses than goal scoring but part of the improvement over last season is that we look capable of scoring goals from all positions.

1 – 0 soon became 2-0 when Frazer Bent scored his first goal of the game. Frazer had a relatively easy chance due to some great play on the right by Tom Eyers. You could see that the fast start had caught Guru out but they continued to back each other vocally. After 20 minutes Dartford won a free kick on the edge of the box. The ball was rolled to the right for Tom Eyers to unleash an unstoppable shot from 20 yards. The ball flew in to the net and I don't think any two keepers would have saved it! Score Gurus 0 – Dartford 3. Unfortunately, at this stage, left-back Lewis Sutherland had to be withdrawn due to a tight hamstring. This was unfortunate, particularly for Lewis, who has done well in the last few games – hopefully the injury is not too bad and the quick exit and instant treatment helped. Lewis' bad luck benefited Ashley Issuree who was unlucky not to be starting the game anyway.

Guru then had a spell of good football that resulted in Adam Molloy making a great double save when it appeared that the home side was going to pull a goal back. This was important as it may have opened the door for a still vocal and positive Guru side. However, it was Dartford that altered the score line. Frazer got his second goal of the game when he was in a great position for a poacher's goal and this was quickly followed by the first goal of the afternoon for Connor Heffernan.

Half-time score Guru Nanak 0 Dartford 5. It's difficult to think of things to say to a side that are up by 5 at half time! Assistant Manager Cen had his say first and pointed out that the league may well be decided by goal difference. He encouraged the players to be positive and not to settle for 5. As for me, I asked the team to be more patient with the forward passes and make sure that we controlled the game as well in the second half as we had in the first. Oh, and I also asked for five more goals!

I don't know what the Guru Manager had said to his players at half time but they emerged a different side. They dominated us for about 15 minutes and appeared to be well up for the game! During this time they got a goal. By fair or foul means we should have cleared the ball just inside our half. Instead the play got to the edge of our box and ultimately a forward got through on goal to beat Adam from about 10 yards. Fair dos, their play deserved something and although frustrating to concede, it was only our fourth goal conceded this season. Adam could do nothing about it.

Straight after conceding changes were made. Tom Eyers was replaced by Ola Ayoola and Jack Walter was replaced by James Jordan. This lifted Dartford and we soon stamped our authority back on the game. The goal against really did act as a wake up call and we set about going back on the attack. Frazer completed his hat-trick when he rounded the goalie, then a defender before finally slotting the ball home – calmness personified! Connor Heffernan then got back on the score sheet when he collected the ball 30 yards from goal and calmly put the ball in the top corner! 7 – 0 to Dartford. Connor soon made 2 goals in to 3 when he volleyed home from close range – I swear that if the ball hadn't gone in the goal it would still be travelling now!

The one surprise of the game was that it took Crouchy so long to get on the score sheet! Danny headed home his fourth goal of the season from a Danny Nash corner. Crouchy isn't the most physical player in the side but he really has a knack of being in the right place at the right time from corners. There was still time for Frazer to bag his 4th of the game and his 5th of the season to make the **final score Guru Nanak 1 – Dartford 10.**

This was a crucial win for us today. We didn't take our chances last week and it was imperative that we played well this week to put last weeks' frustrations behind us. Corinthian were top at the start of play but could only draw against Chatham Town, a team that we convincingly beat 3-0 a couple of weeks back. This saw the Young Darts claim top spot on goal difference over Sittingbourne, who have played a game more. Corinthians slipped down to third.

We are in cup action for the next couple of games. We entertain Hollands & Blair on Wednesday evening at Princes Park, 7.45pm kick off (trying for 7:30pm though), in the John Ullman cup and on Sunday we are back at Princes Park for an 11am kick off against Bredhurst in the KCFA Cup. With these games being in the stadium, it would be great to see as many people there as possible. We're not a bad side, but don't take my word for it....come and see for yourself!



Frazer 'Goal Machine' Bent



Connor 'Hatrick' Heffernan

<http://www.dfc18.co.uk>