

Sunday 9th September 2018

**Barnet Sunday League Division One Match at the Edmonton Sports & Social Club (Pitch 2)**

**Kick-Off:** 10.30.a.m.

**Result:** **EDMONTON ROVERS**..... 4 **EDMONTON BLADES** ..... 0 **Half-Time:** 4-0

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-2-3-1)		GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Ian WHITMORE	
2	RB	Sam WOOLLEY	
6	CB	Richard HARRIS	
5	CB	Troy BLAKE	
3	LB	Aiden KAVANAGH	OFF 87
14	CM Holding	Curtis BAALAM	
16	CM Holding	Daniel CASCOE	OFF 84
8	RM	Leon McKENZIE-McKAY (Captain)	10, 44 Mins.
4	ACM	Nassir ALI	OFF 75
10	LM	Jack BANGS	23 (Pen.) Mins.
12	CF	Tom CROAKE	OFF (Inj.) 73
<b>SUBSTITUTES</b>			
7	CF	Lexton HARRISON	ON 73
20	CM Holding	Michael NKEMAKOLAM	ON 75
17	CM	Alex OKADIGBO	ON 84
15	CF	Dave NGUYEN	ON 87
1	GK (Not Used)	Albert OKADIGBO	

**OWN GOALS Scored For Us:**

**MANAGER:** Tony McKay

**CLUB LINESMAN:** Bob Cleary

**ATTENDANCE:** 32

**OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT:** L.Hughes, R.Bennett, D.Daley, R.Johnson, O.Watson

**REFEREE:** Alex Flett

**BOOKINGS:** None

**SENDING-OFFS:** None

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Blustery wind across pitch **STATE OF PITCH:** Perfect

**UNAVAILABILITY:** (13 Players) Ayo Matthews, Daniel Daley, Nathan Allen, Ivan Bass, Rafiel Johnson, Oshade Watson (All Injured), Nana Obeng, Harold Ofori, Josh Baptiste (All Away - Abroad), Tyronne Petrie, Eni Bezati (Both Working), Jordan Umpire (Other Commitments) **Sunday Morning Drop-Outs:** Mohamed Ali (Illness)

**OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (3-4-2-1):** 1. Osman Iskalet (GK); 38. Graham Nolan (RCB), 5. Daryl Catanach (Captain...SW), 3. Jamie Spence (LCB); 2. Sam Williams (RWB), 13. Reece Wilkinson (CM), 17. Kyle Hodgson (CM), 11. Michael Regan (LWB); 34. Mike King (RCF), 10. Harry Nolan (CF), 33. Ben Charles (LCF) **Subs.** 15. Liam Chambers (On for Wilkinson - 40 Mins.), 4. Tom Opoku (On for Charles - 40 Mins.), 30. Ben Scaife (On at HT for Spence), 12. Marino Eleftheriou (Not Used)

**OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS:** None

### **MATCH REPORT**

We came into this first match of the season rather unsure of ourselves despite having big turnouts during Pre-Season as key players Ayo Matthews, Daniel Daley, Nana Obeng, Harold Ofori, Tyronne Petrie & Ivan Bass were all unavailable, while new signing Mo Ali (who was due to be starting in an attacking role) dropped out on the morning of the match through illness. We also had one or two players starting who had been out all night with Aiden Kavanagh falling asleep in the changing rooms almost as soon as he arrived. However, he managed to wake up in time for the warm-up and then took his place in a new-look defence which featured goalkeeper Ian Whitmore and centre-backs Richard Harris & Troy Blake all making their League debuts for the club. With our opponents Edmonton Blades beating us 6-2 the last time we played them eight months ago, we were expecting them to come at us straight away, but they were missing two of their better players from that match in the attacking midfield positions and it was our superior fitness from a good Pre-Season that saw us dominate right from the start. We took the lead after just 10 minutes when Tom Croake flicked on an Aiden Kavanagh through ball for Leon McKenzie-McKay to beat Blades keeper Osman Iskalet to it and tap into an empty net, then we went 2-0 up after 23 minutes when Jack Bangs comfortably put away a spot kick after he himself had been rather needlessly tripped in the area by Blades wing-back Sam Williams when he was 'going nowhere'. It was then that our extra fitness really started to tell, and that resulted in a third goal for us after 29 minutes thanks to Croake chasing the ball down and putting the Blades defence under all sorts of pressure to force a mistake from Graham Nolan which Nassir Ali capitalised on to hit a well-struck long-range shot past keeper Iskalet. We then rounded off an excellent First Half with a fourth goal just a minute before Half-Time when Aiden Kavanagh made a typical burst through the centre of the pitch from the left-back position to unsettle the Blades defence, with McKenzie-McKay then rounding a couple of defenders with some neat footwork inside the area to slot the ball into the bottom corner. Blades then re-grouped during the break to tighten up defensively, but with our new central defensive partnership of Harris & Blake looking really solid and keeper Whitmore pulling off a stunning double save to preserve a clean sheet, there was no chance of a Blades comeback and we really should have added to our goals tally in the Second Half with McKenzie-McKay, Croake and right-back Sam Woolley all missing clear-cut chances, while Croake also had a goal harshly disallowed for a slight push. It was an ideal start to the season though and a very impressive team performance.