

Friday 18th August 2023

Pre-Season Friendly at Enfield Playing Fields (Pitch 15)

Kick-Off: 6.30 p.m.

Result: **ESTUDIANTES (LONDON)** 2 **EDMONTON ROVERS** 6 Half-Time: 2-2

SHIRT NUMBER	TEAM (4-4-2 / 3-5-2 39)			GOAL TIMES
1	GK	Josh WAKEFORD (Captain)		
15	RB/RCM 39	Sam PRITCHETT	OFF 85	
5	RCB/SW 39	Chris JORDANOU		
4	LCB	Natan PAWLACZYK	OFF 39	
18	LB/LCB 39/RCB 46	Tobi CHARLES	OFF HT/BACK ON 46	
11	RM/LCM 88	Harry DORWARD	OFF 53/BACK ON 88	
8	CM	Dapo ALAOYE	OFF 77	
3	CM/LCM 39	Charlie SAVAGE	OFF 88	
7	LM	Christian ELLIS	OFF 25/BACK ON 53	
16	CF	Harvey ANTONIOU	OFF 25/BACK ON 77	9, 78 Mins.
9	CF	Myreon KEANE	OFF HT/BACK ON 85	
SUBSTITUTES				
6	LM/RM 53	Rashawn BENNETT-DYER	ON 25	45+1 (Pen.), 53 Mins.
10	CF/CM 77	Oliver HEARN-LEER	ON 25	
12	RCB/LCB HT	Michael MENZIES	ON 39	
14	CF/RCM 85	Tairique HARRISON	ON HT	62, 72 Mins.
20	RCB	Gianni DIPO	ON HT/OFF (Inj.) 46	
OWN GOALS Scored For Us:				

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MANAGER: Stuart Dorward

CLUB LINESMEN: Various

ATTENDANCE: 30

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurence Hughes, Sarah Dorward, Hilary Carey, Mike Jordanou, Sarah Bartlett, Dele Alaoye, Keith Savage, Tim & Verity Wakeford (Later)

REFEREE: Estudiantes Player

REFEREE'S MARK (Out of 100): N/A

BOOKINGS: None

SENDING-OFFS: None

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Cloudy. Mild. No Wind.

STATE OF PITCH: Perfect

UNAVAILABILITY: (4 Players): Tre Maxwell, Daniel Schwartz-Gee, Bradley Ismaili, Kai McAuley (All Away or Working Late)

OPPONENTS' LINE-UP (4-3-3): Dominik (GK); Jeron (RB), Marcel (RCB), Darren Wiltshire (LCB), Ahmed (LB); Sida (RM), Kai (CM), Sky King (LM); Derek (RW), Mo Kargbo (CF), Ashley Cooper-Clarke (LM) Subs. Chris, Mo (LW)

OPPONENTS' GOALSCORERS: Ashley Cooper-Clarke (8 Mins.), Sida (17 Mins.)

MATCH REPORT

This first Friendly of the Summer against our regular Pre-Season opponents Estudiantes London had to be moved to a Friday night due to England's Women's Team reaching the World Cup Final that was due to be played the following Sunday morning, but ironically it resulted in us fielding arguably the strongest squad of 16 we had put out since our 'Project Re-Start' began in July 2021 with Sam Pritchett, Chris Jordanou, Dapo Alaoye & Charlie Savage all available to start when they were hardly able to play at all last season for various reasons, while on the bench were two good trialists in Oliver Hearn-Leer and Michael Menzies as we fielded a squad of 17 & 18-year-olds only with Tre Maxwell unavailable and Nana Obeng & Leon McKenzie-McKay both having other commitments this season.

That saw us start positively, but Estudiantes had been playing all throughout the Summer against Step 5-7 Saturday teams and they took the lead after just 8 minutes when Ashley Cooper-Clarke ran on to sidefoot past Josh Wakeford in a one-on-one after beating the offside trap. However, we then equalised almost straight from the re-start when Harvey Antoniou ran onto a perfect ball over the top from Dapo Alaoye to make it 1-1 with a well-controlled half-volley, but Estudiantes regained the lead after 17 minutes from a close-range finish after we had failed to clear our lines defensively. The rest of the First Half was very even, but we deservedly equalised right on the Half-Time whistle when Rashawn Bennett-Dyer scored from the spot to make it 2-2 after Dapo had been brought down just inside the area. We had actually started getting on top six minutes earlier once Manager Stuart Dorward changed to a 3-5-2 formation and the extra man in midfield saw us dominate the Second Half despite substitute Gianni Dipo doing the splits with nobody near him and injuring his groin just 30 seconds after coming on at Half-Time, much to the amusement of his Cousin Tairique Harrison, who finally managed to stop laughing and concentrate on the game when we went 3-2 up in the 53rd minute as Rashawn raced onto another good through ball from Dapo to beat the keeper with a good finish. Tairique then scored himself to make it 4-2 nine minutes later, tapping in from the rebound after Rashawn had yet another chance after once again racing clear of the Estudiantes defence, then Tai finished well with his unfavoured left foot to make it 5-2 in the 72nd minute after an excellent six-man passing move all across the pitch. Harvey Antoniou then matched Rashawn and Tai by scoring his second of the match to make it 6-2 after 78 minutes after Christian Ellis had done his best Alexander Isak impersonation by skinning a couple of defenders down the left wing before crossing perfectly to the far post for a tap-in. 6-2 was the final score, but we could easily have had more if it wasn't for the Estudiantes goalkeeper making a number of fine saves and it was an excellent performance all round.