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Match Report

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Charlton U18s 0



Tottenham 0

Fixture Type: Academy League U18s

Venue: Home

Match Date: Sat 13 Sep 2008

Date: Sat 13 Sep 2008. Liam Happe reports

Youngsters pick up a point

Charlton's U18s emerged with a hard-earned point following a goalless draw against Tottenham Hotspur at Sparrows Lane on Saturday morning.

A combination of new faces and more experienced academy regulars put forth a resilient effort against a highly-rated batch of Spurs starlets, including Crystal Palace product Jon Bostock and Ryan Mason, whose brace condemned the young Addicks to defeat in last season's corresponding fixture.

The hosts weathered some strong attacking play, but also created some good opportunities of their own through Jack Clark, trialist Jordan Hibbert and Steve Lozano-Calderon, but were also unable to break the deadlock even though both crossbars were rattled in the closing stages.

U18s coach Damian Matthew made a solitary change in his back five from the home reverse against Stoke City last time out, with Carl Jenkinson returning alongside Clark, Taylor Sinfield, Sam Long and goalkeeper Callum Christie.



Wholesale changes were implemented elsewhere, however, as only captain Alex Stavrinou and Tamer Tuna retained their places from a fortnight earlier, this time lining up alongside Hibbert and Freddie Warren, with Ben Godfrey and Lozano-Calderon up front. It was the visitors who came closest to scoring in the early going, with Mason threatening to repeat his double from March with a pair of free-kicks that forced saves from Christie.

The young Addicks hit back through a Sinfield header from Clark's free-kick which just squeezed over, before several strong challenges from Godfrey and Warren earned the pair bookings.

Things were equally as passionate as the game increased in intensity after the interval, and chances for both sides became more and more frequent - while Matthew replaced Warren and Tuna with Lewis Perkins and

Callum O'Shea respectively.

The final quarter of the game saw the visitors turn up the heat and force some inspired last-ditch defending from Charlton's back four, as well as more heroics from Christie, with his save of a dangerous Yaser Kasim effort the pick of the bunch.

And while Tottenham came within an inch of sealing a dramatic win two minutes from time when Andros Townsend hit the post from close range, Hibbert's fine run and cross deep into stoppage-time crept its way onto the crossbar and forced a panicked clearance to keep the scoresheet blank.

Charlton: Christie; Long (Jensen 90), Sinfield, Jenkinson, Clark; Tuna (O'Shea 72), Stavrinou, Warren (Perkins 57), Hibbert; Godfrey, Lozano-Calderon. Subs (not used): McGinty, Lee.

Bookings: Godfrey 37, Warren 42, Lozano-Calderon 68.

Tottenham: Butler; Smith, Caulker, Butcher, Byrne; Townsend (Asajile 89), Kasim, Bostock (Ekim 61), Obika; Mason, Parrett. Subs (not used): Dalton, Shehu, Jack.

Pictures: Edmund Boyden



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