

Evo-Stik League Northern Premier Division - Tuesday, 18th October 2016

Halesowen Town 0 Matlock Town 3

Matlock inflicted Halesowen's first league defeat since August with three second-half goals, *writes David Johnson*.

A competitive, but even, first period gave little sign of the three-goal margin of defeat in Matlock's first ever victory over the Yeltz. Halesowen started with confidence although Jordan Goddard's final shot lacked power from Lee Chilton's 5th minute cross and Kennedy Digie failed to find sufficient direction with two headers in front of goal as Halesowen forced a couple of consecutive corners. The Yeltz then defended a 10th minute Matlock free-kick from the edge of the area with Asa Charlton clearing the loose ball for a corner. Back on the attack, Jay Denny made a great turn to deliver a delicate cross into the Matlock area after 15 minutes.

But Matlock continued to play with pace, particularly down the left flank, and Goddard needed to be alert to clear off the home goal-line in the 19th minute after the ball was struck from the edge of the area following another corner. Jake Green's 26th minute free-kick also caused confusion before the ball was put out for a Matlock corner. Before the interval, Malcolm Melvin steered a shot off target and Matlock goalkeeper Philip Barnes gathered a cross from Kyle Haynes at the base of his post.

At the start of the second period, Marcus DINANGA capitalised on poor home defending to fire the determined Gladiators into a 49th minute lead with a close range shot. For the Yeltz, Chilton's 60th minute header lacked any direction following good work by Haynes down the right and Denny fired over the bar two minutes later.

Matlock doubled their lead in the 69th minute when DINANGA smacked home his second goal of the game with a fierce shot from the edge of the area, following a weak back header from Charlton. Dinanga almost completed his hat-trick in the 81st minute after nipping onto a back-pass from Richard Sho-Silva, but goalkeeper Dan Platt managed to stay alert to collect at Dinanga's feet.

However, the Gladiators completed their 3-0 win in the 84th minute after Dinanga burst forward again to square the ball to Curtis Morrison in front of goal. Although Platt saved well, Marc NEWSHAM was on hand to follow up and hit home as Halesowen meekly surrendered their long unbeaten run.

Halesowen Town: Dan Platt; Kyle Haynes (Ethan Delaney 71), James Hancocks (Kyle Morrison 71), Jay Denny (c), Richard Sho-Silva, Asa Charlton, Malcolm Melvin (Danny Bragoli HT), Kennedy Digie, Kaiman Anderson, Jordan Goddard, Lee Chilton. Subs Not Used: Aaron Griffiths, Jack O'Day (GK).

Matlock Town: Philip Barnes; Liam Marsden, Jake Green, Joe Doyle-Charles, Adam Yates (c), Nicolantonio DeGirolamo, Niall McManus (Jamie Yates 81), Michael Williams (Alex Pursehouse 67), Marc Newsham, Marcus Dinanga, Curtis Morrison (Ben Edgson 85). Subs Not Used: Nicolas Travis, Arron Jameson.

Referee: Robbie Dadley **Attendance:** 353

Booked: Platt (31), Williams (43)

'Tulleys Print' HTFC Man of the Match selected by Benbow Steels: Richard Sho-Silva