



Colchester Utd Website

Match Report

Colchester United made the perfect start to their Vertu Trophy campaign, producing a brilliant display to earn a deserved 2-1 victory away at League One Wycombe Wanderers.

It was the U's fifth away trip of the season and Danny Cowley made nine changes. Only Jack Payne and Josh Powell kept their places from Saturday's league game, with Dom Gape, Jack Baldwin, Ronnie Harvey and Harvey Araujo all handed their first starts for the club.

Colchester began brightly, carving out the first opening inside four minutes with slick one-touch football that saw Kyreece Lisbie break forward, only to drag his shot wide. Wycombe responded with efforts from Fred Onyedinma and James Tilley, the latter denied by a fine fingertip stop from Tom Smith.

The U's continued to press and their positive play was rewarded on the half-hour. Baldwin, probing from deep, delivered another dangerous cross. Jaden Williams rose highest to meet it with a header, and when his effort was parried, the striker reacted quickest to smash home the rebound and claim his first competitive Colchester goal.

Just as Colchester looked in control, Wycombe found their equaliser moments before half-time. Alex Lowry cut inside and whipped an thumping effort into the back of the U's net to level the contest at the break.

The U's regrouped and came out strongly after the restart. Lisbie's pace and persistence caused constant problems, while Baldwin and Araujo continued to drive the side forward from the back. Cowley turned to his bench to maintain the pressure, with Harry Anderson and Arthur Read injecting further energy. Chances came and went as Williams, Lisbie, Anderson and Read all went close, while Colchester also saw a penalty appeal waved away when Jaden Williams went down in the box. The U's piled forward in the closing stages, Harry Anderson almost finding the net with an overhead kick before Tucker was introduced to replace the impressive Ronnie Harvey.

It was Tucker who proved the match-winner. Deep into stoppage time, a corner dropped kindly in the box and the centre-back hammered home his third goal of the season to send the travelling 143 U's supporters wild and secure the victory.

It was no more than Colchester deserved after dominating large spells of the game and creating the clearer chances. The result gives the U's the perfect platform in the Vertu Trophy, with further group fixtures against Gillingham and Fulham U21s to come. But beforehand the U's return to league action to take on Crewe Alexandra at home on Saturday.