



Friday 4th September 2009
Southend United 3-0 Leyton Orient

Starting XI: **Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Adam Barrett, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Anthony Grant, Damian Scannell, Francis Laurent and Lee Barnard.**

After a media fuelled week of financial meltdown behind the scenes, the Blues registered their first league win of the season against local rivals Leyton Orient.

Southend United entered this evening's game with a lot of praise for their displays, however, they had not registered a win in the Coca Cola Football League campaign, but right from the first whistle the crowd were behind the team.

The first 30-35 minutes were very cagey, as both teams looked really nervous which was not like the Southend United that we had all previously seen this season, maybe as it was a local derby they were a little cautious. Southend United did have the best chances of the first half and had a penalty shout when Scannell went down in the box, but the ref told Damian to get back on his feet.

Francis Laurent, looking his fittest since various injuries, had a fierce strike pushed over by Glenn Morris after a good run from the French forward. Just before half-time midfield engine Alan McCormack received a neat pass from Laurent but Morris comfortably saved his shot.

Orient rarely threatened and their only real chance of the half came when former Chelsea midfielder Jimmy Smith had a free kick palmed away by Mildenhall.

The second half was total dominance from the 'One Team In Essex' and it belonged to Lee Barnard who notched his first professional hat trick to deliver Southend's first league win of the season.

His first came after he was brought down in the penalty box and he duly stepped up to take it. However, it was not so simple as that. Barnard took the penalty and it flew into the top corner of the goal, however it was ruled out as Scannell entered the area before Barney struck the penalty. The second time was the same result but in the opposite corner and the Blues were one up.

Barnard then notched his second goal of the game that put the game behind Orient. Centre-half Adam Barrett latched onto a through ball but his right-footed shot was blocked however it came straight back to him and he clipped a beautiful right-footed cross for Lee Barnard who put his header back where it came from and into the corner of the goal.

He completed his hat-trick in the 90th minute when he picked the ball up and ran at the defence, he then cut inside onto his left-foot and unleashed a shot that took a wild deflection off Luke Ashworth which gave Morris no chance to complete the rout.