

* - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 11th MARCH 2001
 MERCURY WALTON SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION 2) MATCH AT HOME TO DATA
 AT HAZELWOOD SPORTS GROUND
 KICK-OFF 10.40 AM (REFEREE LATE)
 SCORE:- **EDMONTON ROVERS 2 DATA 4** HALF-TIME: 2-0

TEAM	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK ¹ STUARTS ELIA	6½	
2. RB ² Tony SPELLER	6½	
3. LB ¹⁰ STEVE BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	6½	
4. RM ⁷ Paul REBAIRO * (70 mins)	7	15 (PEN) mins
5. SW ⁴ Stuart DORWARD	6½	
6. CH ³ Robin PRYKE	6½	
7. CM ⁹ Marco ELLERKER	7	39 mins,
8. CM ⁸ John BEASLEY	7½	
9. CF/RM ¹¹ Paul ELLERKER * (70 mins)	6½	
10. CF ⁶ Derek DORWARD	7	
11. LM ⁵ Lee OSBORN * (70 mins)	7	
12. LM ¹⁶ Gary ODELL * (70 mins)	6½	
14. CF ¹² Conor McGOVERN * (70 mins)	6½	
15. - ¹⁴ Gary SOUTHAM	-	
16. -	-	
17. -	-	

OPPONENTS GOAL TIMES:- JASON PARTRIDGE (51, 62 mins), NEAL HOMER (58 mins), DANNY MITCHELL (78 mins)
 OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT:- L. HUGHES, T. HUGHES, T. REEDEN, R. REEDEN, T. MCCARTHY, C. REEDEN
 CROWD: 20
 CLUB LINESMAN:- RON BEASLEY
 REFEREE:- BOB MARTIN
 BOOKINGS:-
 REFEREE'S MARK (OUT OF 10):- 6
 SENDING OFFS:-
 WEATHER CONDITIONS:- CLOUDY BUT MILD. STIFF BREEZE DOWN PITCH (AGAINST US IN 1ST HALF !)
 STATE OF PITCH:- VERY SOFT AND MUDDY. CHURNED UP DOWN WINGS (AS USUAL)

Report: Our nightmare spell of matches where we have thrown away a two-goal lead continued with this demoralising defeat, leaving our hopes of winning the Division Two title almost certainly over and our chances of finishing in *second* place in jeopardy as well. However, we actually played some good football and created numerous chances, *most* of which went 'agonisingly' just too high and/or wide or were saved by an inspired keeper (the 'umpteenth' time this season that the opposition keeper has turned out to be their best player !). We had a bit of luck at *first* though when we were given a penalty for a slight push in the area that *most* referees would *ignore* and when Paul Rebaïro confidently converted it and Marco Ellerker *increased* our lead just before half-time, it looked as if we were on our way to a comfortable victory. Even when Data's Jason Partridge pulled a goal *back* early in the second half it still looked likely to be more of a consolation as we were clearly the better side.

However, we then suddenly went to pieces *defensively* and Data quickly snatched two *more* goals from fast breaks out of defence, good crosses and clinical finishes before they grabbed another in *similar* fashion 12 minutes from time to leave us with a dismal record of only one win in our six matches played so far in the year 2001 !

As we suspected, the video of the match confirmed that Stuart Dorward and Robin Pryke kept pushing up into midfield too much because with Russell Beeden out for the rest of the season we no longer have a midfield holding player who will pick up and mark opposing forwards when they 'drop deep'. This left 'massive gaps' at the back leaving the notoriously slow Steve Beasley and Tony Speller too exposed in the full-back positions when players *ran* at them. In the first half they didn't have a problem because wide midfield players Paul Rebaïro and Lee Osborn were both getting back to help out, but when Rebaïro and Osborn both 'ran out of steam' (resulting in their eventual substitutions) it gave Data six clear-cut chances on the break in the second half of which they converted four of them !

The first appearance of the 'legendary' ? Conor McGovern in a Rovers shirt for five years as a 70th minute substitute then failed to spark a comeback, although other players (most notably Paul Ellerker with another 'Miss of the Season' candidate) certainly had some chances. Unfortunately then, our slump towards 'Mid-Table Mediocrity' continues, and with key players out injured all we can hope for in our remaining games is a bit more *luck*.