

Sunday 10th August 2003

Pre-Season Friendly Match at the Ashton Playing Fields, Woodford Green (35 Minutes each way)

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	5	ENFIELD CRUSADERS	1	HT 1-1
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M.Mc,Kay (17 mins.),
S.Dorward (39, 49 mins.),
L.Harrison (47 mins.),
Cokell (62 mins.)

Seymour (31 mins.),

Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (7); Ali AHMED (7), Paul REBAIRO (7), Gary ADAMSON (6), Lee OSBORN (8); Brian KAMUTEKU (6½), Clark WILLIAMS (7), Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (7), Jerome HARRISON (7); Lexton HARRISON (6½), Myron Mc,KAY (7) **Subs:** Steve COKELL (7), Stuart DORWARD (7), Paul WOOLSTON (7), Tony SPELLER (7), Derek DORWARD (6½), Robin PRYKE (6½)

Enfield Crusaders Line-Up: No Team Details

Referee: Steve WILDGOOSE

Weather Conditions: The Hottest Day Ever !
(100°F)

Attendance: 25

Report: Our newly re-formed Reserve Team got off to a winning start in their first-ever 11-a-side match, but they were obviously helped by the gradual introduction of six First Team regulars from the 31st minute onwards, the First Team's match on an adjoining pitch having been postponed after their intended opponents failed to appear. (See [First Team Match Reports](#) for further details).

As we half-expected, Lexton Harrison's 'crew' (who make up over half of our Reserve Team) all arrived at the venue half-an-hour late...for which they will all be fined 50p ! The exception to that was Myron Mc,Kay, who was only 10 minutes late, and maybe that was a factor in him being awake enough to give us the lead with a deft header from Lee Osborn's free-kick after 17 minutes. However, even by then our 'bare eleven' Reserve Team players were starting to feel the effects of it being the 'hottest day ever' and with no less than 19 potential First *and* Reserve Team players being unavailable for various reasons (including *that* one !), we had no option but to bring on some watching First Team players to take their place, even though the game was only 35 minutes each way because of the late kick-off.

The first of those substitutions saw Steve Cokell come on to replace the normally super-fit Lexton Harrison after 31 minutes, but some of our defenders then lost their concentration just as that was happening as they allowed Enfield Crusaders to equalise with a free header by Steve Seymour. With Enfield Crusaders being in Division Three (one Division higher than our Reserves) and having played three Pre-Season Friendlies already against supposedly better opposition, our Reserves performance was actually quite encouraging, even *before* our First Team regulars came on, with Jerome Harrison, Brian Kamuteku and Ali Ahmed in particular all performing better than they have been in the Summer 7-a-side League, Jerome in fact nearly scoring a Reserve Team Goal of the Season already with a superbly controlled volley from Steve Cokell's cross towards the end of the half. Unfortunately though, that shot was well dealt with by Crusaders highly useful-looking keeper, who also went on to make another couple of excellent saves in the Second Half from Brian Kamuteku and Stuart Dorward, but it was Dorward who not suprisingly started off the 'rout' in the Second Half with two goals in the space of 10 minutes despite playing in defence somewhere !? His first came after a one-two with Lexton Harrison put him clean through, then Lexton got on the scoresheet himself with a stooping header from Steve Cokell's cross to make it 3-1 before Dorward made it 4-1 in the 49th minute by deliberately sprinting in to tap-in Tony Speller's goalbound 'shot' on the goal-line, much to the amusement of our many Club Members and 'hangers-on' on the touchline who had fortunately found a large tree to shelter themselves from the incredible heat (which must have been about 120° out on the pitch...as I predicted on the [Forum](#) during the week !).

Numerous 'roll-on, roll-off' substitutions then followed, with the only outfield player able to last the distance being midfielder Clark Williams, who was brought along at the last minute by Lee Osborn to help out, but with no intention of signing up because of other commitments...this being just our luck of course ! Despite First Team regular Chris 'Nugget' Beeden pestering 'stand-in Assistant Reserve Team Manager' Trevor Hughes for a run out almost non-stop during the Second Half (and being turned down for fear of Referee Wildgoose sending him off for swearing...again !), it was Reserve Team regular Ali (or 'Ally' if you are Reserve Team Manager Mark Howley !) Ahmed who created our 5th and final goal in the 62nd minute with an excellent ball to set up Steve Cokell for an easy tap-in and a fitting end to a morale-boosting victory.

This match was not captured on video as it kicked-off before the First Team's match was officially called off. (I then spent most of the First Half putting everything back in the car, so some of the above report is made up from other eye-witness accounts !).