

Sunday 16th January 2005

Mercury Waltham Sunday League Division Four Match at Albany Park

EDMONTON ROVERS
RESERVES

0 ENFIELD ROSANERI

3

HT 0-0

Webber (51 mins.),
Williams (64, 91 mins.)

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES' LINE-UP (with Marks out of 10): Dave BAGNALL (GK) (7); Colin BESTER (7), Robin PRYKE (7), Lee OSBORN (8), Scott ROBERTSON (7); Chris MORRISH (6), Tony SPELLER (6), Barry MATTHEWS (7½), Eric IBEKWEM (6½); Paul GIBSON (7), Myron Mc,KAY (7) **Subs.:** Tem ADIL (6½), Mashood BURAAHEE (6½), FoysoL AHMED (6)

ENFIELD ROSANERI'S LINE-UP: Graham TYRELL; Nick SHEWRING, Neil Mc,HUGH, Jim DOWNING, Tom ALFIERI; Mark COX, Jamie WEBBER, Rob ROLES, Marcus ROSE; Steve WILLIAMS, David HUGHES **Subs.:** Paul SINDREY, Kevin MULLY

Referee: Mick EDWARDS

Weather Conditions: Cloudy. No Wind

Attendance: 17



Report (By Laurence Hughes): With the First Team not having a match arranged, it was a rare chance this season for First Team Manager Trevor Hughes and myself to see how the Reserves have been progressing lately...and to capture their notoriously bad defensive blunders on video ! However, we were also hoping to film them actually scoring a goal for once, as their line-up for this game was boosted by First Team players Robin Pryke and Eric Ibekwem having a run-out to improve their fitness after long injury absences before Christmas, while Reserve Team Captain Tony Speller was able to actually *play* a Reserve Team *game* and forward Paul Gibson was brought in to partner Myron Mc,Kay, having now returned to the club

this week after a three-year spell living, working and playing football in the United States. Unfortunately though, although these players are undoubtedly good individually, the absence of Reserve Team regulars Ritchie Copues (Injured Knee), Peter Murphy (Broken Toe), Russell Beeden (Injured Back) and Brian Kamuteku ('Woke up late !') meant the teamwork had to start from scratch again following two or three encouraging performances before Christmas in which the Reserves only lost by narrow margins.

However, it became immediately obvious that on this occasion (unlike the previous week's 9-0 hammering), we had players all over the pitch who knew how to move about and show for the ball, and although there were a lot of wayward passes at times during the First Half, we kept possession a lot better than normal and managed to come off at Half-Time with a blank scoresheet. Dave Bagnall did have to make a couple of good saves though, while aggravating an injury in the process...this being caused by a couple of trialists 'clattering him' at training in an effort to impress, but as usual Dave bravely carried on. At the other end though, we had few chances ourselves and the closest we came was when Tony Speller got forward onto Myron Mc,Kay's low cross, but his attempted shot came more off his chest and then just trickled along the ground !

The Second Half started with both sides continuing to be evenly matched, but mid-table Enfield Rosaneri took the lead in the 51st minute when midfielder Jamie Webber beat the offside trap and finished easily. Our numerous spectators on the line seemed to think it was Scott Robertson's fault, and although he did do a wayward defensive header to start off the move, it was more a case of good play by our opponents (or Club Linesman/Reserve Team Manager Mark Howley going to sleep ?).

Although there was no 'mass bollocking' this time and our heads were still up, we found ourselves 2-0 down just 13 minutes later when the injured Dave Bagnall spilled a loose ball from a free-kick

into the 6-yard box and allowed Steve Williams an easy tap-in. (See picture top right). That saw Manager Mark Howley make a double substitution with Tem Adil coming on for Chris Morrish, who had been unable to get into the game, while Mashood Burahee came on for the injured Myron Mc,Kay up front. In fact 'Mash', along with Foysol and Ali Ahmed, had turned up on this occasion without being named in the squad, which was really ironic because whenever they **are** named in a squad they sit at home wondering why nobody has phoned them to tell them so, this of course not being the club rules at all ! (How many times have they been told that they are supposed to phone **us** if they are not at training and are not on the Internet !??). Mash and Foysol (who was also brought on later in the game) were therefore just lucky that Lexton Harrison dropped out of the squad having played the day before and Brian Kamuteku was 'still asleep', but in fairness 'Mash' played quite well when he came on, as did Tem Adil, and we actually played a lot better for the last 20 minutes, although the most memorable incident for us during that time was Lee Osborn's call to a team-mate which went something along the lines of 'Barry, I mean, Brian, I



mean Myron, I mean, Eric, I mean, Foysol'...followed by the ball smacking him straight in the face while he was looking skywards trying to think of the correct name ! (and half those players weren't even on the pitch at the time !).

In fairness though, Osborn was actually a revelation in this match, as the criticism on the Forum during the week after his 'rant' of the previous week had presumably sunk in and this time he concentrated on his own game for once instead of standing there bellowing at others while the ball was in play (and invariably going over his head to an opponent !?). That saw him rightly earn the man-of-the-match award, with Barry Matthews not far behind, but it wasn't enough to stop us crashing to another defeat, the scoreline being rounded off in Injury Time

with virtually the last kick of the match as Steve Williams scored his second with a close-range finish from a good low cross to make the final score 3-0, which we didn't really deserve.

Osborn in fact had our two best chances of the match in the Second Half with 'shots ?' that hit the outside of the post and flew narrowly wide after good runs from the back. However, Tony Speller's weak effort in the First Half turned out to be our only on-target shot of the match, so we couldn't really complain about losing.

The difference between the two sides was not surprisingly teamwork and the fact that Enfield Rosaneri had a bit more of a cutting edge up front, whereas Myron Mc,Kay and Paul Gibson were maybe too similar in style to each other, even though they played reasonably well and put themselves about. There was also a big difference in the quality of substitutes brought on though, as Enfield Rosaneri introduced Kevin Mully as one of *theirs* during the Second Half, Mully being a regular with Dr.Martens League side [East Thurrock United](#) (equal standard as Yeading !)

Unfortunately we can't really compete with that sort of strength in depth at the moment, even with our First Team not having a game, and it was another example of just how strong Division Four (and the League in general) is this season.