

Sunday 17th August 2003

Pre-Season Friendly Match (for the Tony Scoates Memorial Trophy) at the Country Club, Cheshunt

EVEREST

2

EDMONTON ROVERS

2

HT 1-2

(After 90 Minutes) Everest won 4-2 on penalties

Bell (25 mins.),
Baxter (80 mins.),

S.Dorward (2 mins.),
J.Beasley (31 mins.)

Everest's Line-Up: Alan HORTON; Bobby RANDLE, Alex LEONARD, Eoin O'GRADY; Andrew SHEEHAN, Matt CRAWLEY, Stuart Mc,MAHON, Nick VERTIGANS, Mike EDWARDS; Dave BAXTER, Dave BELL **Subs:** Jamie STOREY, Scott YATES, Steve EVEREST, Danny COLE (GK)

Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Darryl JOHNSON (GK) (6½); Robin PRYKE (7), Tony SPELLER (7), Paul WOOLSTON (7), John BEASLEY (8); Gary ODELL (6½), Chris BEEDEN (6), Steve BEASLEY (7), Stuart DORWARD (6½), Eric IBEKWEM (7); Steve COKELL (7) **Subs:** Gary COKELL (6½), Myron Mc,KAY (6½)

Referee: Bob BRAND

Weather Conditions: Warm & Sunny

Attendance: 25



Report: As usual, we came into this Annual Memorial Trophy match against newly-promoted Division One side Everest with a seriously depleted side, this time due to Holidays, Social Commitments and long-term injuries rather than the excesses of various Stag Nights and Barbecues which had ruined our chances of winning this fixture for the past three years. On this occasion, the likes of Marco & Paul Ellerker, Peter Sutton, Derek Dorward, Conor Mc,Govern & Chidi Ibekwem were all missing, but we still managed to field a reasonable squad of 13



with only Gary Odell & Myron Mc,Kay having to be called up from the Reserves, while Steve Cokell's brother Gary was brought in to help out with a view to signing up to play for the First Team when needed rather than as a regular. Thankfully though, Everest were also missing some first-choice players (although not quite as many as us !?) and that saw us take the lead after just two minutes when newly-appointed skipper Stuart Dorward showed how fired up he was to win this match against his fellow work colleagues and Rosedale Cricket Club members by sliding in at the far post to get on the end of Steve Cokell's low

cross to give us the lead. Unfortunately though, Stuart collided with Everest's stand-in keeper Alan Horton in doing so and had to be rushed to Hospital with suspected broken ribs...after a three-minute delay during which most of the other players on the pitch stood there laughing at him assuming he was acting as usual !? (See picture right) (The diagnosis later turned out to be severe bruising, so he definitely wasn't 'mucking about' this time !). That saw Gary Cokell have to come on earlier than expected, but being a defensive-minded player that only resulted in us losing our momentum completely from an attacking viewpoint and Everest ended up getting on top for most of the First Half as we found it difficult to clear the ball properly out of defence. However, Darryl Johnson only had one diving save to make during that time (a reasonably comfortable one), while Everest's equaliser in the 25th minute came from a disputed throw-in for which Manager/Linesman Trevor Hughes rather unfairly got the blame as Dave Bell struck a low shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area with very few of our defenders watching. Our best chance of getting back into the match with Stuart Dorward off the pitch though was for some of our defenders to make runs forward, especially with Chris 'Nugget' Beeden looking a bit out of sorts in midfield and Gary Odell lacking match practice due to recent work & family commitments, so John Beasley therefore took it upon himself to get up in attack from his newly-appointed left-back position in the 31st minute and convert another excellent pinpoint cross from Steve Cokell from close range to give us a 2-1 Half-Time lead.

Manager Trevor Hughes then decided to bring on forward Myron Mc,Kay for his First Team debut at the start of the Second Half with Steve Cokell dropping back to an attacking central midfield position and that saw us really excel with our usual tactics of defending deep and hitting teams on the break with our 4-5-1 formation. That resulted in Myron having two one-on-one situations with Everest's Second-Half keeper Danny Cole, who unfortunately for us looked quite useful as he forced Myron into shooting wide on both occasions, while he also denied Steve Cokell with an excellent save towards the

end from our only other clear-cut chance of the half. Unfortunately though, Everest's only clear-cut chance of the half resulted in an equaliser as their best player on the day, Dave Baxter, rounded Darryl Johnson to make it 2-2 in the 80th minute after sweeper Tony Speller had found himself stranded up the pitch after an attack had broken down with nobody bothering to cover for him.

On the balance of play, 2-2 was probably a fair scoreline at the end though, but with a Trophy at stake, a Penalty Shoot-Out was needed in order to decide the recipient...and we were *always* likely to come second best in *that* with Paul Rebairo now playing for the Reserve Team, Stuart Dorward in Hospital and nobody else seemingly having taken a penalty for 'years' ? Of course it was just our luck that Everest were fielding virtually a whole team of apparent experts (according to their Manager) and when Eric Ibekwem blasted his penalty against the bar and Gary Odell followed up with a 'scuff' straight at the keeper, the destination of the Trophy was never in doubt with Everest converting four out of four, giving Darryl Johnson little chance.

For the record, Steve Cokell and John Beasley confidently converted two penalties for us, but it wasn't enough to stop Everest winning the Tony Scoates Memorial Trophy for the third year running (while they also beat us in a Pre-Season Friendly four years ago, before the Trophy was played for). Let's hope we don't get drawn against them in one of the League Cup Competitions as they are clearly a 'bogey' side for us !