

Sunday 2nd November 2003				
Mercury Waltham Sunday League (Division Four) Match at Albany Park (Pitch ?)				
EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	0	NORTHMET (RIVERSIDE) RESERVES	7	HT 0-1
		C.Bowler 2, M.Bevens 2, D.Carter 2, S.Davin		
Edmonton Rovers Reserves Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Jerome HARRISON (GK) (7½); Ali AHMED (6½), Mat STEELL (7½), Billy BURNHAM (7), Terry DELLER (7); Brian KAMUTEKU (6½), Paul REBAIRO (8), Russell BEEDEN (7), Scott ROBERTSON (7), Lee OSBORN (7); Daniel OMISORE (5) Subs.: None				
Northmet (Riverside) Reserves' Line-Up: Andy VERDIN (GK); Mick ENRIGHT, Steve PENN, Michael PENN, Jamie JONES; Martin MULLEN, Dan SAVAGE, Sean DAVIN, Gerardo RIZZO; Craig BOWLER, Matt BEVENS Subs.: Danny CARTER, Peter ANDREWS				
Referee: Jonathan AGYEMANG	Weather Conditions: Torrential Rain & Strong Winds		Attendance: ?	
Report (By Reserve Team Manager Mark Howley...with additional wording by Laurence Hughes !): As usual, yet another Reserve Team Home match kicked off late through circumstances beyond our control...this time due to newly-recruited League Referee Jonathan Agyemang turning up at 10.40.a.m. (because he lives in Tottenham, doesn't drive and is not on the Internet), then wanting the goalnets put up on another (unused) pitch because Pitch 4 (which they were on already) was 'waterlogged' ! Thankfully, our opponents Northmet (Riverside) Reserves helped us do so in order to get the game on, but by the time the Final Whistle went we obviously wished they hadn't have been so keen ! At least we didn't have any problems with players turning up late this time though, but with Dave Bagnall, Myron Mc,Kay and 'Lee' Simsek all dropping out on the morning of the match (through 'Flu', 'Injury' and 'No Excuse' respectively) and Simon Jackson (Family Commitments), Gary Adamson (Family Commitments), Barry Matthews (Chipped bone in his foot) & Gary Odell ('Flu') all dropping out during the week, we were down to just the bare eleven again with Manager Mark Howley the only available substitute, although he of course had to act as Club Linesman...albeit using a white handkerchief instead of a proper flag as Referee Agyemang didn't possess any !? Despite all this, we started the game well and played some good football early on, but we went behind after just 15 minutes when Matt Steell (who was making his Reserve Team debut) made a mistake at the back which allowed a Northmet forward a on-on-one with stand-in keeper Jerome Harrison and the chance was easily converted. Gradually though, Steell and his fellow centre-back Billy Burnham got to grips with each other's games (this being the first time they had played together) and with Paul Rebaire having his best game of the season so far, we fought back and nearly equalised when Daniel Omisore, who was playing as a lone striker, hit a fierce drive from just inside the area which was spectacularly tipped away by the Northmet keeper. In fact we were a bit unlucky to come off at Half-Time 1-0 down in what had been an even First Half. Unfortunately though, just two minutes into the Second Half, Lee Osborn gave the ball away with a loose pass and Northmet punished us by making it 2-0 and after that our heads went down and we conceded goal after goal in quick succession, although it didn't help that Northmet were fielding the strongest Reserve side they had put out all season. (Why does this always happen to us !?). It also didn't help that we had a number of players seemingly doing their best to become the latest entry on our ' Strangest Players Ever to Have Played For Edmonton Rovers ' page, namely Jerome Harrison, who turned up wearing a 'lucky glove' on his left hand (which he intended wearing instead of a proper goalkeeper's glove ?) and a pair of fluorescent green lycra cycling shorts as underpants...which he unintentionally displayed out on the pitch when his goalkeepers trousers fell down as he was running behind the goal to retrieve the ball, while Brian Kamuteku played the whole match in training shoes (despite the torrential downpour) and a pair of Ice Hockey goalkeeper's bright orange 'wrap-around' massive shinpads, and Ali Ahmed attempted to play a whole match despite 'fasting' for a week because of Ramadam...hence his delight in it raining heavily so that he could 'cheat' by 'inadvertently' drinking some of it !? Needless to say, Ali & Brian therefore became 'passengers' as the Second Half progressed, as did Billy Burnham, who was suffering from shin splints, but at least they lasted the full game...unlike Daniel Omisore, who couldn't handle such a heavy defeat and simply walked off the pitch (and probably out of the club) when Northmet's 6th goal went in. That saw us concede a 7th goal shortly afterwards when the 6ft. 4ins. tall Jerome Harrison was chipped from 25 yards...despite standing on his goal-line !, but he redeemed himself in the last minute by saving a penalty (taken by the Northmet keeper), which had been very harshly awarded. 7-0 was the Final Score though, this being our 5th League defeat in a row, and obviously there is now a danger of more players following Daniel Omisore's lead and not bothering any more after that. Hopefully though, enough players will be patient enough to realise that it will take time before numerous First Team players return from injury which will then result in the Reserve Team being stronger, and hopefully by the end of the season the Reserves can field more of a settled side and get some better teamwork going.				