

Sunday 29th February 2004

Mercury Waltham Sunday League (Division Four) Match at Enfield Playing Fields (Pitch 12)

OAKWOOD UNITED

1

EDMONTON ROVERS
RESERVES

1

HT 0-0

R.Hall (53 mins.)

R.Beeden (47 mins.)

Oakwood United's Line-Up: No Team Details

Edmonton Rovers Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (6½); Lee OSBORN (6½), Matt STEELL (6½), Scott ROBERTSON (6½), Terry DELLER (6½); Ali AHMED (6½), Russell BEEDEN (7), Foysol AHMED (7), Jerome HARRISON (6); Lexton HARRISON (7½), Mashood BURAAHEE (6½) **Subs.:** Billy BURNHAM (GK) (6), Myron Mc,KAY (6), Barry MATTHEWS (6)

Referee: Mick EDWARDS

Weather Conditions: Sunny, but Cold

Attendance: 6



Report: With Oakwood United on a poor run of form in Division Four, having lost something like 7 out of their last 9 matches, this was a game that our Reserves were expecting to win and therefore improve their chances of escaping relegation. However, that idea more or less went out of the window thanks to numerous First Team players deciding to give their game against Sporting Club Tottenham a miss this weekend, thereby resulting in the influential Leon Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay and Brian Kamuteku having to be dragged over to Pitch 16 at the same venue (fortunately !) to play for the First Team at the last minute. With skipper Paul Rebairo and the experienced Peter Murphy also missing due to an injury and family commitments respectively and Myron Mc,Kay and Barry Matthews having to be named as substitutes after turning up late yet again, we were therefore without six key players in our starting line-up, although we still managed to field a reasonable side with three substitutes

available.

However, with so many changes, especially in midfield, it meant the First Half was very scrappy with few chances and not surprisingly it finished goal-less. Despite not having much to do though, Simon Jackson had to come off with an injured heel at Half-Time as a result of a cricketing injury, so Billy Burnham was therefore brought on to replace him in goal, although he then got injured himself at one stage and actually played on with a suspected broken leg after five minutes of treatment ! (Yes, Billy IS mad !?).

Before that though, we managed to take the lead just two minutes into the Second Half when the ever-improving Mashood Burahee forced a corner which Russell Beeden got on of the end of with a header which was blocked initially and then put away at the second attempt. In fact we then should have gone 2-0 up just four minutes later when we were awarded a penalty for handball, but Matt Steell went and hit the post with his attempt with the Oakwood keeper nowhere near it....this of course being yet another penalty failure by a Rovers player this season !

Not surprisingly, Oakwood then punished us for that just two minutes later when Ross Hall scrambled the ball in from a corner...due to a lack of zonal marking practice again of course and they then could have won the game themselves in the 67th minute when Russell Beeden handballed in the area to give them a penalty, but the spot kick was ballooned over the bar...as observed from the First Team's pitch from a distance by the way !

The game therefore finished in a draw, which was a fair result, but the plus points for us were the much-improved form of man-of-the-match Lexton Harrison, another impressive showing from Foysol Ahmed (who claims he was on Spurs books as a youngster !?...we will have to check that out ?) and perhaps most encouragingly, the fact that several players had the opportunity to be named in the starting line-up for once and did not let anybody down.

The photos on this page are of the Reserves in action against Oakwood...as taken from the First Team's pitch 'half-a-mile' away (at Half-Time) !

The picture on the right shows Wooly in the foreground (laughing at Billy ?)