

Sunday 7th March 2004

Mercury Waltham Sunday League (Reserve Cup Semi- Final) Match at Albany Park (Pitch 4)

EDMONTON ROVERS RESERVES	6	ROSEMILL RESERVES	0	HT 1-0
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L.Harrison (20, 89 mins.),
Matthews (51 mins.),
Mc,Kenzie-Mc,Kay (62 mins.),
Burahee (80 mins.),
Murphy (95 mins.)

Edmonton Rovers Reserves Line-Up (with Marks out of 10): Simon JACKSON (GK) (7); Lee OSBORN (7), Paul REBAIRO (7), Matt STEELL (7), Scott ROBERTSON (7); Leon Mc,KENZIE-Mc,KAY (7½), Brian KAMUTEKU (6½), Peter MURPHY (7), Barry MATTHEWS (7); Lexton HARRISON (7½), Myron Mc,KAY (7) **Subs.:** Mashood BURAAHEE (6½), Foysool AHMED (6), Jerome HARRISON (6)

Rosemill Reserves' Line-Up (I think !?): Jason KIRBY; Shaun Mc,DONARGY, Mark ACHESON, Antony HARRISON, Grant PAGE; Adrian REYNOLDS, Tony VENABLES, Jamie HIVES, Wayne BURNETT; Shane SULLIVAN, Daniel REEVE **Subs.:** Matt WILLMOTT, Onofrio TONA, Stuart ATKINSON

Referee: Lee DeVILBISS

Assistant Referees: Les PARISH & Stuart WILSON

Weather Conditions: Cold & Cloudy

Attendance: 33



Report: With the First Team not having a match, a fair number of them were in the crowd to see the Reserves achieve something *they* have been trying to do for the last 18 years...namely reach a Cup Final ! Indeed the Reserves managed it in style with this convincing victory, but it was a game they *were* expecting to win fairly comfortably anyway, while of course they *have* had the luck of the draw in reaching the Final, and especially with the fact that only nine teams actually *entered* the League Reserve Cup. Nonetheless, this result still shows how much the Reserves have improved since earlier in the season when they drew 2-2 with Rosemill Reserves in a Division Four match, a game in which Rosemill fielded a far weaker side than the one they put out in this match.

Of course with this being a Semi-Final, Rosemill turned up in a determined mood by arriving at the venue in plenty of time for the kick-off while naming five substitutes despite their First Team

having a game, and also having a pre-match huddle to fire themselves up...which we never seem to feel is really necessary. With the game having to be played on the smallest pitch over there at Albany Park though due to another 'more important !?' match taking place on our usual pitch, that resulted in a very scrappy first 20 minutes as both teams tried to get used to the fact that the edge of the penalty areas were only a yard away from the touchline ! That resulted in the ball running out of play all the time for non-stop throw-ins, but we did manage a couple of half-chances and also had a goal disallowed after only two minutes when Brian Kamuteku was flagged offside by official linesman Stuart Wilson as he took the ball off the toes of the onside Myron Mc,Kay to side-foot the ball in from 6 yards.

Gradually though, we started to get the measure of the size of the pitch and Lexton Harrison put us ahead after 20 minutes when he outpaced a defender down the left and fired a close-range shot at the ample figure of Russell Beeden's old school-mate Jason Kirby in the Rosemill goal, but the rebound went straight back to Lexton who made no mistake at the second attempt.

We then continued to look the better side in the First Half and created quite a few good chances, but they were wasted by various players with poor finishes which invariably saw the ball sliced high and wide or hit feebly straight at the keeper from good positions. Rosemill's only clear-cut chance of the half (and indeed the whole match) though, came when Scott Robertson's attempted headed backpass to Simon Jackson nearly ended up as a silly own goal, but Jackson managed to keep it out with a brilliant one-handed save diving low to his right !

Sorry...*due to a virus, the rest of this match report has gone missing !...up until* Peter Murphy made it 6-0 in the 5th minute of injury time with a free header from two yards after keeper Kirby had completely misjudged Lexton Harrison's long throw.

The Final Whistle then went shortly after that and not surprisingly everybody was in such a good mood that we actually got more than 10 club members down On Broadway afterwards !

Roll on the Final !