

50 * - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2002
MERCURY WALTON SUNDAY LEAGUE (DIVISION ONE) MATCH AT HOME TO ST. JOSEPHS

KICK OFF 10.35 AM. (REFEREE TAKING HIS TIME!) AT HAZELWOOD SPORTS GROUND

SCORE: EDMONTON ROVERS 4 ST. JOSEPHS 0 HALF-TIME: 1-0

Team	MINES OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK ¹ STAVROS ELIA	7	
2. RB ² Robin PRYKE	7½	
3. LB ⁹ Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)	7	
4. RM ¹¹ Lee OSBORN	* (67 mins) 6½	
5. SW ⁴ Tony SPELLER	7	
6. CM ⁶ Paul WOOLSTON	7	
7. CM ¹⁴ Marco ELLERKER	8	
8. CM ⁸ Stuart DORWARD	7½	
9. CF ⁵ Steve COKELL	* (67 mins) 7	31 mins,
10. CM/CF ¹⁰ Conor McGOVERN	8	48, 51, 65 mins,
11. LM ⁷ John BEASLEY	* (67 mins) 7½	
12. LM ¹² Gary ODELL	* (67 mins) 6	
14. RM ¹⁵ Paul REBARO	* (67 mins) 6½	
15. CM ¹⁶ Scott ROBERTSON	* (67 mins) 6½	
16. —	—	
17. —	—	

STAVROS ELIA GOAL TIMES: —
OTHER CLUB MEMBERS PRESENT: L. HUGHES, R. BEEDEN, T. BEEDEN
(GROUND) 13
CLUB LINESMAN: TREVOR HUGHES REFEREE: BOB ROBERTSON
BOOKINGS: — REFEREE'S MARK (OUT OF 10): 8
SENDING OFF: —
WEATHER CONDITIONS: DRY AND OCCASIONALLY SUNNY, 'STIFF BREEZE' ACROSS PITCH
STATE OF PITCH: FLAT DOWN MIDDLE, BUT BADLY CHURNED UP DOWN WINGS.

Report: Back in September, we produced our only really bad performance of the season so far when we lost 3-1 to an understrength St. Josephs side, despite us only missing one player (Steve Beasley). Ironically, *this* time we fielded a slightly *weaker* side (with Derek Dorward on Holiday and Paul Ellerker out with a fractured shoulder) and St. Josephs fielded a slightly *stronger* one, but such is our improved teamwork in recent matches since Manager Trevor Hughes decided to stick with a 4-5-1 formation that we cruised to a comfortable 'revenge' victory in which we could have easily reached double figures.

The main reason we ended up having so many clear-cut chances was because St. Josephs' back four kept pushing up to the half-way line and playing a suicidal offside trap which we beat almost every time thanks to Stuart Dorward and Conor McGovern making well-timed runs from midfield. With St. Josephs' Secretary & Linesman Mark Butcher thankfully refusing to 'cheat' (as some of his defenders presumably *wanted* him to judging by the amount of abuse they were giving him?!), it resulted in us having at least 12 one-on-one situations with keeper Robert Cobb, a number of which he won by making brilliant saves. However, most of these chances were squandered because of some dreadful finishing, Dorward being the biggest culprit with numerous Geoff Thomas impersonations...although the blustery wind and badly churned-up pitch didn't help, but three good finishes in the space of 17 minutes early in the second half from the previously wasteful McGovern (all from one-on-ones) made the game safe enough for us to actually make a triple substitution in the 67th minute to give some 'fringe players' a run-out!

Both ourselves and St. Josephs had come into this match having been without a game for two weeks, but St. Josephs had beaten Chaseside Old Boys 6-2 in their last outing and were presumably confident because of that despite their lowly position in the table. Indeed, they did give us a few scares in the First Half, most notably when defender Chris O'Dwyer fired a long-range shot into the bottom corner (shortly after Steve Cokell had given us the lead), only to see it ruled out for offside against a forward who may or may not have been 'active'!?

However, for every chance St. Josephs created throughout the match, we created two or three and it was another deserved victory and a good all-round team performance as we kept up our challenge for Promotion...or maybe even the Division One title?!