

* - SUBSTITUTED

SUNDAY 14th OCTOBER 2001

MERCURY NATHAN SUNDAY LEAGUE (ROY BAILEY CHALLENGE CUP, FIRST ROUND) MATCH AT HOME

KICK OFF 10.25 AM: TO ST. MARY'S (EDMONTON) AT HAZELWOOD SPORTS GROUND

SCORE: EDMONTON ROVERS 2 ST. MARY'S (EDMONTON) 5 KICK TIME: 1-2

TEAM	GOALS	MARKS OUT OF 10	SCORERS
1. GK ¹ Darryl JOHNSON		6½	
2. RB ⁵ Lee OSBORN		5½	
3. LB ¹⁰ Steve BEASLEY (CAPTAIN)		6½	
4. RM ⁷ Paul ELLERKER		7	
5. SW ⁸ Tony SPELLER		7	
6. CM ² Scott ROBERTSON		6½	
7. CM ¹¹ Paul REBAIRO		6½	57 (PEN) mins,
8. CM ⁴ Stuart DORWARD		6½	
9. CF ⁹ Derek DORWARD		6	
10. CF ⁶ Steve COKELL		7	2 mins, CRASHED
11. LM ³ John BEASLEY		6½	
12. - ¹² Paul GIBSON		-	
14. - ¹⁴ Anuj BHARDWAJ		-	
15. -		-	
16. -		-	
17. -		-	

OPPOSANTS' GOAL TIMES: PETER MULLIGAN (14), BOB PURDY (GK!) (22), MATT SPEDDING (51), ANDY SITTON (77)

OTHER CLUB MEMBERS: ROBERT L. HUGHES, J. BEEDEN, R. BEEDEN, C. BEEDEN, D. BEEDEN, TONY MONTAGNE (83)

CLUB LINESMAN: TREVOR HUGHES

BOOKING: STEVE COKELL (ST. MARY'S) 73 mins (DISSENT)

SEPARATE OFF: -

REFEREE: JEFF TILL

REFEREE'S MARK (OUT OF 10): 7

WEATHER CONDITIONS: MANY CLOUDS WITH LIGHT DRIZZLE IN 1ST HALF. STIFF BREEZE DROVE PITCH IN 2ND HALF. WE HAVE RAIN! (AGAINST US!) GRASS GETTING LONG AGAIN!

TYPE OF PITCH: SOFT AND MUDDY, BUT FAIRLY FLAT. LITTLE TOP. GRASS GETTING LONG AGAIN!

Report: Just before this match kicked-off, our assorted ex-players on the touchline were discussing what the likely Final Score might be (based on both St. Mary's current form of five wins and a draw from their six matches played and the usual understrength side we were fielding). The general consensus was a three or four goal defeat with Chris 'Nugget' Beeden's prediction of 5-2 to St. Mary's being deadly accurate! (It sounds like the next Edmonton Rovers Fund-Raising idea will be some sort of betting competition along the lines of 'How Many Are We Going To Lose By This Week ???').

Thankfully though, the players in our starting line-up didn't have that sort of mentality when the game actually got under way and we took the lead after just two minutes when Paul Ellerker set up Steve Cokell for an excellent finish.

However, it wasn't long before the continued absence of regulars Stavros Elia, Robin Pryke & Paul Woolston from our defence resulted in St. Mary's creating numerous chances as our recent signings from the now-defunct Beehive (Wormley), Darryl Johnson & Scott Robertson, found themselves extremely confused by our usual tactics of playing with a sweeper and defending deep and therefore did exactly the opposite! That saw Manager Trevor Hughes actually go against his 'principles' to shout instructions to them from the touchline in an effort to sort out the mess, although by that time we had already gone 2-1 behind as a result of long drop kicks from St. Mary's keeper Bob Purdy sailing over our defence for forwards to run onto, although for their second goal nobody got a touch at all...leaving keeper Purdy as the actual goalscorer!!!

Unfortunately for us, St. Mary's were very useful from an attacking viewpoint which only made matters worse, but their skipper Matt Spedding (in particular) squandered a number of clear-cut chances before he headed in a third goal in the 51st minute after a slick move which had us chasing shadows. At that point it seemed we might crumble, especially with stand-in right-back Lee Osborn having had no sleep whatsoever the night before after Paul Rebaire's 31st Birthday celebrations...Osborn therefore playing like a 'zombie' (or 'Treasure MacCarthy'), and no doubt he won't remember the several times he was 'nutmegged' or left 'on his arse' by St. Mary's forwards! However, Rebaire ignored his 'hangover' to confidently put away a penalty in his usual 'John Aldridge' manner to pull the score back to 3-2 in the 57th minute (after Derek Dorward had been brought down by keeper Purdy), and we then had our best spell of the match. Indeed with the St. Mary's defence looking almost as dodgy as ours, we could quite easily have equalised on a number of occasions but just didn't have the run of the ball in front of goal. In the meantime we had also sorted things out at the back and it looked as if we might suddenly be 'turning the corner' and getting our confidence back after three weeks of 'misery'! However, sweeper Tony Speller then made the one single mistake of his otherwise Man-Of-The-Match performance when he was caught in possession in the 77th minute, resulting in Andy Sitton putting St. Mary's 4-2 up to kill off the match, although maybe the introduction of forward Paul Gibson for Lee Osborn may not have been a bad idea at that stage...except that Manager Trevor Hughes had to act as Club Linesman again (because all 'ten' other 'Club Members' on the touchline either 'couldn't run', were too busy eating their breakfast or 'didn't know the rules'!!). With 'Gibbo' behind the 'Cow Shed' somewhere with his Wife/Girlfriend by now (not watching the match?) and Trevor running the line over the far side of the pitch to our 'supporters' though, it required the services of our 'unofficial Assistant Manager' Russell 'Tarby' Beeden to walk over to the 'Cow Shed' to tell 'Gibbo' to warm up, but Tarby's 'leg was suddenly hurting too much' to do that and the idea of a substitution gradually fizzled out.

St. Mary's 5th goal (in the 83rd minute) therefore became rather inevitable after that, which gave 'Nugget' his correct prediction and condemned us to another First Round exit in this competition...as we seem to do most seasons?!