

U's second half rally foiled by Dartford

Cambridge U. 1, Dartford 2. (Attendance 3,529).

CAMBRIDGE UNITED'S winning run was brought to an end by Dartford at Newmarket Road on Saturday but the U's did not surrender the Southern League points without a tremendous second half fight.

However, the visitors thoroughly deserved both points although the U's were perhaps a little unlucky not to force a draw in the final furious onslaught.

United lost the game for two reasons. The first was that the left flank of the defence was weak. Billy Welsh has never settled down to play consistently this season and consequently Derek Finch usually finds that he has two men coming at him all the time.

Dilemma

This happened time and time again and unfortunately Finch never knew whether to tackle or fall back, it was such a dilemma that led to the first Dartford goal. The second reason, and probably the more important, was that the U's badly need a class inside forward. McVittie is not the answer. He clearly showed on Saturday that he is a far better left winger now and his talent was lost inside.

Dartford were essentially a strong side but they were not lacking in skill and their performance made it quite obvious why they have gone undefeated since early September.

The ball flew from man to man with unerring accuracy. This was not so with the home side, especially in defence, where most of the U's passes started opponent's attacks.

Gibson again

Once again Gibson was United's best player both in defence and attack. He showed his imagination as often masterfully and capped a fine afternoon's work with a goal. At his present rate the Irishman will become the league's top scoring half-back.

After a goalless first half when defences were generally on top, Dartford went into a two-goal lead

with scores from Amato and Ripley in the 57th and 63th minutes respectively.

United closed the gap when Gibson headed home a centre from McVittie with 15 minutes left to play and then staged a grandstand finish trying for an equaliser. But John Bourne, the Dartford goalkeeper, although playing on after dislocating a finger in the 70th minute, managed to prevent a further score.

Two saves, from Hobbs and Atkinson, caused the goalkeeper great pain and after both he needed attention from the trainer.

United: Slack, Scurr, Finch, Gibson, Kelly, Welsh, Day, McVittie, Randall, Atkinson, Hobbs. Dartford: Bourne, Siford, Mabey, Humphries, Burns, Anderson, Ward, Amato, Uphill, Ripley, Dennis.

Southern League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Weymouth	13	8	2	3	28	14	18
Worcester City	12	6	3	3	20	15	15
Dartford	11	6	3	2	25	14	15
Chelmsford City	13	6	3	4	29	25	15
Yeovil Town	11	3	8	0	19	11	14
Margate	12	6	2	3	19	10	14
Bedford Town	13	5	4	4	19	24	14
Hastings Utd.	12	3	7	2	18	16	13
Tonbridge	10	3	3	4	20	28	13
Cambridge Utd.	14	4	5	5	21	22	13
Cheltenham T.	11	5	3	3	21	22	13
Romford	13	5	3	5	19	21	13
Guildford City	10	4	2	2	22	17	12
King's Lynn	13	2	8	3	20	25	12
Bexley Utd.	11	5	1	5	28	20	11
Bath City	12	3	1	8	20	11	11
Folkstone	12	3	5	4	21	28	11
Wisbech	11	4	2	5	22	26	10
Nuneaton Ber.	10	3	3	4	14	18	9
Cambridge City	11	2	3	6	16	23	7
Wellington T.	13	2	2	9	14	25	6
Rugby Town	12	2	1	9	18	39	6



United's Jimmy Gibson about to head home United's only goal.

Gregory adds goal punch and City achieve 'double'

CAMBRIDGE CITY completed a "double" at

Hastings on Saturday when they won 3-0 to gain two valuable Southern League points. It was the first time they had won away this season and it was the first time they had ever beaten Hastings in Sussex.

Unfortunately, however, these points did not raise them in the table, where they still languish in third place from the bottom. Alan Gregory, playing at inside-left, was the star of City's side. He scored twice in the first period and was always a threat to a Hastings defence that was often jittery. He added a lot of punch to an attack that has been off the target for most of the season.

He combined well with Eddie Bailham in the middle and, generally, the forward line was a much better unit than we have

Hastings 0, Cambridge City 3. (Attendance 1,686).

seen recently. The defence had a reasonably easy time because the Hastings forwards failed to take advantage of good approach work, mostly walking the ball on to a City man's toe.

Right from the start one could tell which way the game was going. Hastings frittered away a couple of early attacks and it was unlucky 13 for them when in that minute Gregory scored the first goal for the visitors. Bailham gave him a through pass and the ball flashed into the top of the net.

The second

Only seven minutes later Gregory added the second goal, this time from a pass by Reg Pearce. The wing-half pushed the ball through and Gregory was allowed to flick it first time over the advancing keeper's head as the left-back stood still.

Hastings showed a little more "bite" in the second period, but

they still could not get near to penetrating the City defence, while City had near misses at the other end.

The game was still lethargic as Hastings could not settle down and City were obviously content with their lead and were playing to keep it.

The result was put beyond all doubt 15 minutes from the end when a move on the right ended with Alan Spears pushing the ball back to Tommy Carroll. The full-back's pass found Bailham in the middle of a host of Hastings defenders but he was still allowed time to shoot and the ball went home.

In the end City were well on top and only desperate play by the home rearguard prevented more goals arriving.

Hastings: Agate, Cockburn, Tucker, Brown, Cradice, Simpson, Back, Marshall, Francis, Olah, Burden.

City: Heath, Carroll, Poole; Pearce, McGugan, McNally; Spears, Moore, Bailham, Gregory, Wall.

Reserves never hit top form

Cambridge City Reserves 0, Romford Reserves 1.

THE scoreline is a fair reflection of this Metropolitan League game in which City never hit top form and wasted numerous scoring chances.

City had as much of the play as their mediocre opponents, but neither side displayed any original or imaginative touches and mostly seemed content to indulge in mid-field skirmishing. City plugged steadily away, trying to find a gap which would let them in for a goal.

Just when everything seemed set for a goalless first half, inside-right Cappi latched on to a good pass from Harrison in the 44th minute and scored an opportunist goal for Romford.

This brief defensive lapse cost City the match, and no matter how hard they pressed in the

second period they were unable to notch the equaliser.

The only outstanding feature of the City display was the performance of keeper Brian Caine, one of the club's close-season signings. Caine easily dealt with the occasional Romford raids and showed he is potential first team material.

City were severely handicapped when Peck was injured and had to be carried off on a stretcher. Reduced to ten men, City never looked like pulling a last minute surprise out of the bag, and every one was relieved when the final whistle ended a poor afternoon's soccer.

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A 'kick and miss' affair

NEWMARKET TOWN 2, YARMOUTH TOWN 3.

NEITHER Newmarket nor Yarmouth gained any honour or glory in their Eastern Counties Cup match at Newmarket on Saturday. The game which started promisingly degenerated into a "kick and miss" affair, with keepers running higher than the standard of play.

Yarmouth deserved to win—just. Newmarket scored in the fifth minute through Brooks, who ran through a stationary defence, which was expecting an offside decision, to net.

Frank Cruickshank made one of his very few errors to help Yarmouth equalise—a miskick letting in Warr to score.

Yarmouth went further ahead with two goals by Roberts. The Jockeys threw everything into the game and snatched back a goal through Brooks, but were unable to net the equaliser.

One highlight of the game was the performance of Newmarket's new University signing, right-winger Barnwell. He showed a good turn of speed and put across some pin-point crosses, and was not afraid to let loose his powerful shot.

Soham plumb the depths

SOHAM Town 0, Norwich A 2.

SOHAM Town have rarely played worse. After their bright performance against King's Lynn Reserves they again plumbed the depths on Saturday and were beaten in this E.C.L. Cup match by a smart young Norwich A side.

Soham's defence played reasonably well with "Taffy" Jones, in only his second game of the season, showing all his old agility in goal. There was little constructive work by the wing halves, though and certainly no more by the attack.

Norwich were a far different side from the one beaten ten-nil by Thetford last week, with five different players on view. Their defence, with centre half Beane outstanding, was so well in control that Barnard did not have one difficult shot to save.

Basted put Norwich ahead with a shot that went in off a post in the 34th minute. Soham plugged away for the equaliser without much method and Cann ended their chances with a 25 yard drive in the 75th minute.

This lifted Norwich off the bottom of Section II and Soham replace them.

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