

United always looked better than Luton

Cambridge United had a useful work-out in preparation for their F.A. Cup-tie against Bedford on Saturday when, without being extended, they comfortably beat Luton Town's strongest available side in a friendly at the Abbey Stadium last night, reports David Hallett.

Bedford, incidentally, underlined their threat in a 7-1 Southern League victory last night over Cheltenham.

In the first half United fielded what is likely to be their cup side with the exception that Barr played at centre-forward in place of Turley, who was moving house.

This attack, after an uncharacteristic start, fully extended the "Hatters" defence for long periods and, with a little more urgency in front of goal, they could have had a hat full.

However, with the cup-tie only four days away, players could be excused any undue stress in this friendly match.

Flying Finch

One player who is always flat out in any match is Derek Finch, now playing as well as any centre-half United have had in recent years.

He was giving away inches to both the Luton strikers and, with the ball being crossed high all the first half, he was outjumping the taller forwards to win the ball almost without exception.

He was well supported by the highly mobile team captain and right-half, Gerry Graham. The wing-half is now approaching his best form since he has been at the club and last night he covered almost every inch of the pitch.

But every United player played

Cambridge United 3, Luton Town 1.

his part with 90-minute endeavour which is becoming the hallmark of Cambridge United teams.

Rodney Slack and Jackie Scurr also impressed in defence but were only narrowly ahead of all their colleagues.

Wesley Maughan played in the second half for his first run out after a hamstring injury and he will need another match before he is back into full swing.

New signing

In the second half United introduced a new signing in Alva Anderson, a Jamaican undergraduate at Fitzwilliam House. Anderson is an international, having represented his country in a World Cup qualifying match against Mexico.

The Jamaican, who is a centre-half, played at left-half in place of Hobbs and, although his marking was slack, he showed one flashing shot from 35 yards that had Tinsley moving desperately to save.

Luton started off brightly and took the lead after 10 minutes when their livewire outside right, Fry, pounced onto a rebound to slam the ball past Slack.

United were level 10 minutes later when Day fired home an unstoppable shot from 25 yards.

The third

In the second half United took command and on the hour took the lead for the first time. Bennett's persistence was rewarded when he scored after collecting a shot which had bounced off Tinsley.

Scurr made it three when he ran from his full-back position to the middle of the Luton goal to ram home a pin-point cross from

Billy Day to complete the scoring. The nearest visitors came to scoring in this period was when Matt Woods, the former Blackburn centre-half, headed past Slack only for Finch to clear from the line.

Teams (half-time changes in brackets).

Cambridge United. Slack; Scurr, Tedds; Graham, Finch, Hobbs, (Anderson); Day, Amato, Barr, Barrett, (Maughan), Bennett.

Luton Town: Tinsley; Thomson, Jardine; Reid, Riddick, Moore; Fry, Read, Rivers, (Woods), McKechnie, Rioch.

City pay the penalty of playing without urgency



David Bennett, Cambridge United's left-winger, is rewarded for his persistence when he scores his side's second goal after his first shot had hit Tinsley, the Luton goalkeeper (left).

Chelmsford 4, Cambridge City 2. (Attendance 3,029).

The Cambridge City manager, Tony Marchi, cannot have been too happy with his side after last night's Eastern Professional Floodlight League defeat at Chelmsford.

Too many of his players seemed content to regard the match as nothing more than an informal training outing and as a result Chelmsford who, like City, have been suffering something of a goal famine thus far, were allowed to record their biggest win of the season.

City, showing two changes from Saturday's beaten line up, looked anything but sound in defence and it was perhaps surprising that this clash between two sides who have conceded only eight and six goals respectively in Southern League matches should produce half a dozen goals.

in an incident in last month's Southern League match at New Wattle Street, was a butt for the crowd from the start. He gave them an answer with glimpses of his old form, but still gave the impression that he is far less dangerous than last season.

From the creative viewpoint Reg Pearce again excelled, rarely wasting a ball and it was a pity that he could not sour some of his colleagues to greater effort. More often than not Pearce was the man behind City's most likely looking raids and several times the Chelmsford goalkeeper, Owen Medlock, was called upon to make unorthodox saves after Pearce's craft had been responsible for carving an opening.

Chelmsford took the lead after 23 minutes when the City defence failed to clear a corner and wing half Terry Eades dashed in to open the account. The home side might well have added further goals before half-time, but failed to capitalise and in 66 minutes Cambridge equalised when Billy Wall nipped in and crossed for Alan Spears to head home.

This goal inspired City to a flurry of activity but it was Chelmsford who scored again in the 72nd minute when Lou Costello, a full back deputising at

Lethargic

Chelmsford, profiting from their speed on the wings, where George Duncan and a trialist, Don Buxton, consistently beat Ian Fusedale and Tommy Carroll for speed, created many openings and only good work by Bill Heath and some last ditch clearances prevented the margin from being even greater.

City, by contrast, were a disappointingly lethargic outfit and Eddie Bailham, who was involved

centre forward as Bud Houghton is injured, stabbed the ball through a ruck of players and it was deflected out of Heath's reach.

Two minutes later Costello scored again after Eades had headed the ball into the goal-mouth, and Roy Summersby snapped in a fourth Chelmsford goal from a Costello pass after 79 minutes.

Billy Wall reduced the deficit after 81 minutes from what many considered to be an offside position, but instead of starting another revival Cambridge were again pushed back and spent the last few minutes defending desperately.

Cambridge City: Heath; Fusedale, Carroll; Barker, McGugan, Pearce; Spears, Bailham, Ward, McVittie, Wall.

United youths lack the killer instinct

Ipswich 5, Cambridge United 2.

Cambridge United, by far the best side seen at Portland Road this season, looked like holding top of the table Ipswich in this Mercia Youth League Cup match last night. But in the end they were well beaten.

The Cambridge boys played good football but could never effectively penetrate the compact Ipswich defence. They are unlikely to meet a better side than Ipswich in this league.

In this match they lacked the "killer" touch in front of goal. Ipswich, on the other hand, had a marksman in Viljoen, who scored

four fine goals after the interval. The Cambridge defence was built round centre half Robinson who was dominant in the air and allowed the Ipswich centre forward, Clarke, little freedom.

Cambridge took a lead in the 32nd minute. In a breakaway down the right wing Habbins cut in past Mills but was brought crashing to the ground by Jefferson in the penalty area. Payne took the kick and although Bugg got both hands to the ball he could not prevent it crossing the line.

After 57 minutes, Ipswich equalised through Clarke.

Shortly afterwards, following some heavy pressure on the Cambridge defence, Ipswich went ahead through Viljoen. Two minutes later Harley equalised with the best goal of the match when he crashed home a left wing cross from the edge of the penalty area.

Viljoen put Ipswich back in front from close range and later scored two further goals.

Cambridge United: Haggis; James, Coxon; Goodchild, Robinson, Rogers; Habbins, Payne, Fretwell, Felton, Harley.

Walden played better with ten men

At the weekend Saffron Walden Hockey Club gained a not very impressive 2-2 draw against Norwich Exiles but played with greater urgency against the powerful Ilford Casuals, who eventually won 3-2.

Walden could not have been too happy about Saturday's 2-2 draw. The cohesion that gave the side a worthy draw the previous Saturday was sadly lacking, and the distribution of the ball especially in the first half, left much to be desired.

All too often the defence held the ball too long, with the result that Colchester were able to snuff any attacking movement almost before it had started. When the ball did get through to the forwards, they were bunching together, and running themselves straight into trouble.

The pitch being a little bumpy, the tactics to pay off were the snappy passes from man to man, using all the space available. Colchester soon realised this, and for this very reason always looked the more dangerous side.

To be fair, Saffron Walden did sort themselves out to an extent in the second half, and as soon as they started moving the ball about, they looked as good as the opposition.

John Davey scored both Walden goals.

Fast and fit

Walden will probably not meet a faster and fitter side this season than Ilford Casuals. Ilford deserved their one goal victory but in view of the fact that Walden were a man short throughout the second half this defeat was no disgrace.

Walden lost their left-winger, Bob Fairhead, minutes before half-time when he was hit just above the eye by the ball and had to be taken to hospital for stitches to be inserted.

This was just one of the many mixed fortunes the home side experienced during the 70 minutes play. Despite some very strong acts by the lively Ilford forwards straight from the bully-off, it was Walden who were 2-0 up within 10 minutes.

Both goals came from the skipper Terry Perrett, who at inside right, played a most constructive game. He had missed the previous week's matches through hockey training course. Ilford were on level terms at the

interval and snatched the winner in a breakaway.

It was perhaps the awareness of being a man short which gave Walden their enthusiasm for the second half. The defence marked their men more closely and the attacks which Ilford did muster seldom looked as venomous as they had in the first 35 minutes.

Schools tourney

Six Cambridgeshire schools provided two teams each in the Cambridgeshire School hockey tournament at the Cambridgeshire High School for Girls.

These were divided into two sections, the teams playing each other in their own section. The final was between the winner of each section.

Wisbech High School (Wisbech) and the Perse School for Girls (Cambridge) first teams reached the final in which Wisbech defeated the Perse by the only goal of the game.

The other schools taking part were: St. Mary's, Coventry, Ely High School, the Cambridge Grammar School and the Cambridgeshire High School.

The standard of play was not too good and, though there were several 'cross-pitch' hits, there was too much bunching in the circle when the ball reached the goal.

Penalty corners counted in all matches but the final, and these took place frequently.

Weak defence

When Cambridgeshire Nomads second team lost 7-3 to Kettering in the first meeting between the two clubs, it was, so far as the Nomads were concerned, a sad chapter of events, the defence, and the half-backs in particular, being unable to hold a fast-moving forward line.

Wisbeach (2) and Harris were the Nomads' marksmen.

Webster, Mitchell and Turvey played well for the Nomads' third team, beaten 2-0 by CIBA.

David Pryke netted all four goals for Haverhill, who defeated a Cambridge City XI 4-0.

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