

United's verve topples the league leaders

Cambridge United beat Chelmsford in the Southern League match at Newmarket Road on Saturday by the same score they recorded against Cheltenham earlier in the week, but the two performances could not be compared, writes David Hallett.

Against Cheltenham, who are struggling to avoid relegation,

United were unconvincing and rather lucky to finish with both points. On Saturday, however, they were a totally different team and Chelmsford, who came to the Abbey Stadium as Southern League leaders, were beaten in fine fashion.

All the 11 United players fought like tigers for every ball and it was this that gave them the edge. However, the Essex club did not let their chance of the league championship slip without tremendous resistance and in the last 20 minutes they had the United defence at full stretch.

Fortunately, whenever they did break through they found Rodney Slack in superb form and, although Chelmsford hammered everything at the goalkeeper, he pulled off a succession of outstanding saves.

Even in the dying minutes when he was limping heavily after a collision with Butcher, he still managed to rob the Chelmsford team of a draw with two flying clearances.

Bud Houghton, the Chelmsford leader, was handicapped for over an hour after he dislocated his shoulder and Gerry Baker, the United captain, spent the same time suffering from a badly gashed lip that needed several stitches after the game.

Best period

It was in the first half that United had their best period as they controlled the game expertly. Amato, on the right, quickly found he had the beating of Gillott, and, given a regular service from his colleagues, he was a constant threat to the Chelmsford goal.

Barrett, Hobbs and Fahy all had good efforts well saved by Medlock in the first 45 minutes after Amato had made the openings and it was not until the stroke of half time that John Fahy gave United the lead.

Amato did the spade work and sent over a dipping centre which ran across the face of the bar to Fahy, who crouched to head the ball home from close range and so keep up his goal a game record in Southern League matches.

After the interval a lot more was seen of the Chelmsford attack. Baker and Finch played a double

centre-half role and, with Houghton dropping back, they were able to exert a fair amount of control.

The two tall Chelmsford full-backs, Costello and Gillott, caused Slack the most trouble. The goalkeeper made a plunging save to parry a header from Costello on the line and then he twisted to grasp the rebound before Butcher could reach the ball.

It was the inside forward who looked the most likely visiting player to score and this he almost did when he raced clear. Slack fearlessly left his line to dive at Butcher's feet and, although the ball bounced towards the United goal, Poole was covering to clear from the goalmouth with an overhead kick.

Both Slack and Butcher were injured in the collision but were able to continue after extensive treatment by the trainers.

Just when the Chelmsford pressure was at its height United broke swiftly away in the 85th minute and Fahy, out on the left, crossed to Amato, who sidestepped Medlock to slide the ball into the net.

It was not until the final minute that Chelmsford scored their only goal, through Butcher, who latched on to a miskick by Tedds and slipped the ball under the diving Slack from close range.

Cambridge United: Slack; Tedds and Poole; Scurr, Baker and Finch; Amato, Barrett, Fahy, O'Neill and Hobbs.

Chelmsford: Medlock; Costello and Gillott; Docherty, Eades and Brennan; Leggatt, Kydd, Houghton, Thurgood and Butcher.



Cambridge United's centre-forward, John Fahy, seems to be helping the Chelmsford goalkeeper, Owen Medlock, to punch clear, following a corner-kick by Peter Hobbs.

Fighting display by Histon

Histon snatched a deserved (Eastern Counties League) point from an erratic Yarmouth side with two goals late in the second half to draw 2-2. Histon started in promising fashion but faded away as the first half progressed but ended the game full of fire.

After 15 minutes of even play, Histon's defence allowed a trying Yarmouth forward line to slip past them too many times.

The Histon keeper, Barker, handled the ball confidently, twice scooping the ball away from the feet of Yarmouth's centre-forward Roberts and once kicked over for a corner when a perfect centre looked dangerous. However, ten minutes before the break Roberts cracked home. Three minutes later the same player gave Yarmouth a 2-0 lead.

Only once did Histon look dangerous in the first half. Denech took a corner and it took Yarmouth several minutes to clear the ball out of danger.

Non-stop

The second half was a different affair altogether. Yarmouth were slipshod while Histon, playing the offside rule to advantage, leapt to life with more adventurous football. Jarmen kept Roberts quiet while Wakefield and Denech, foraging like demons, were the instigators of a non-stop attack on the Yarmouth goal.

A long shot from Willson hit the post but in the 75th minute, just after Yarmouth's inside forward Foster had to go off with an injured leg, Anderson reduced the arrears. The equaliser came when Swanston saved another long shot but dropped the ball at his feet for Barnard to push it into the net. The final whistle saved Yarmouth from defeat at the hands of a revitalised Histon.

Eastern Counties League

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A
Lowestoft	27	22	2	3	120	42
Sudbury	28	19	5	4	74	41
Newmarket	25	14	5	6	75	53
Yarmouth	29	14	5	10	65	52
Stowmarket	24	12	6	7	66	35
Cambridge C. R.	27	14	1	12	69	52
Ely	29	17	3	12	65	60
Soham	27	12	3	12	49	46
Clacton	27	11	4	12	42	25
Haverhill	25	9	7	9	42	48
King's Lynn	27	10	5	12	53	62
March	28	9	6	13	59	30
Gothic	27	9	4	14	45	57
Norwich (A)	27	8	3	16	48	57
Histon	28	5	4	18	27	80
Thetford	29	3	4	22	38	92

Saturday summary

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Cambridge United 2 (Fahy, Amato), Chelmsford 1. Att. 2,844.
Weymouth 4, Cambridge City 0. Att. 1,837.

SUFFOLK CUP

Semi-final

Haverhill 1, Bury 2.
METROPOLITAN LEAGUE

St. Neots 0, Tottenham Hotspur "A" 2.

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

Yarmouth 2, Histon 2.

Sudbury 5, March Town 0.

PETERBOROUGH LEAGUE

Ely Reserves 2, Downham T. 4.

Sutton Bridge 3, Haddenham 2.

Warboys 4, Huntingdon 5.

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE

Eynesbury 1, Desborough 2.

HERTS. COUNTY LEAGUE

Colney Heath 2, Saffron Walden 7.

SUNDAY LEAGUE

Cambridge News 4, N.C.I. 1.

Lauries 1, Linton 1.

RUGBY

Cambridge 21 pts., Old Haberdashians 3.

Cambridge Wanderers 0, Bedford Ath. Extra "A" 14.

Gaynes Hall 6, Cambridge Vanguardians 6.

Shelford 0, Northampton Wanderers 5.

Stevenage 5, Old Perseans 20.

Northampton Scouts II 8, O.P. Wanderers 0.

HOCKEY

Saffron Walden 0, Cambridge City II 1.

City lose their poise in the puddles at Weymouth

After a good run which brought 17 Southern League points from a possible 22, Cambridge City had to run into trouble some time, but four goals against them at Weymouth were too many, writes Peter Fearn.

For 58 minutes it looked as though City might sneak a draw. The defence played a hard, compact game and the champions, now struggling to retain their title, found little joy in the thick mud in the first period.

Notorious

At last they found a chink in City's armour and when Gerry Ward went off for the last half hour with a cut knee they took advantage as City were at full stretch and added three more goals. Ward had four stitches in the wound caused when he fell on a stone, and he is likely to be out for several days.

Weymouth's pitch is always notorious and on Saturday it lived up to its reputation. The heavy rain was lying in puddles and the sand-centred pitch was soon cut up. But,

Southern League

Team	PREMIER DIVISION					
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Hereford	36	20	8	8	72	38
Chelmsford	39	18	12	9	70	49
Romford	39	21	6	12	85	67
Bedford Town	38	21	5	12	74	51
Weymouth	34	17	11	6	57	25
Wimbledon	37	19	7	11	75	42
Worcester	35	19	7	10	68	45
Cambridge City	37	17	9	11	62	49
Cambridge Utd.	39	16	8	15	65	40
King's Lynn	39	17	6	16	70	40
Yeovil Town	37	15	9	13	82	39
Corby Town	36	14	9	15	56	64
Wellington	35	12	12	14	60	36
Nuneaton Bor.	37	14	7	16	57	35
Dartford	37	13	6	18	59	61
Cheltenham	39	11	9	19	59	90
Rugby Town	37	11	8	18	60	81
Poole Town	37	11	6	20	53	72
Fulkestone	35	10	8	17	42	66
Tonbridge	39	11	5	23	56	82
Guildford	39	10	6	23	56	78
Margate	37	7	10	20	55	94

this was only one half of the story for, at the other end, the surface was almost firm. For some unaccountable reason Brendan McNally, after winning the toss, chose to defend the bad end, with the bright sun at his team's back.

Consequently, when Weymouth did all the pressing, City had to rely upon breakaway attacks to the good end. One might have thought they could have done better had they attacked the firm end in the second half, leaving Weymouth to founder in the mud.

As it was, the Milton Road boys were able to cope to start with and even looked menacing when they were able to clear their lines. The conditions never suited centre-forward Eddie Bailham, who had an unhappy afternoon, but Alec Moyses showed the way with a shot only inches wide of the foot of a post in the sixth minute.

Neither side could score before the interval but the game always provided a test of skill as the Terras kept up an almost non-stop barrage and City pulled ten men into defence.

The referee called both sides together for a public warning about petty fouling before play started in the second half, but it did not make much difference.

Chink

Eventually left - back Stocker found a chink in City's armour as his pass reached wing-half Barry, who had time to shoot. David Cobb, who played so well, might possibly have stopped it but, in fact, he only got a hand to the ball which then just rolled over the line.

Six minutes later, when Ward was off the field, a second mix-up allowed centre - forward Jackson to hook the ball into the middle and the inside - right, Dowsett, scored the first of his two goals. Urged on by their encouraged fans, Weymouth looked more confident in front of City's goal and the visitors' defence, while keeping up the struggle were finding the chinks difficult to plug, although the third goal against them, in the 78th minute, was a lucky one for

Weymouth. Gough tried a tentative shot and, just as Cobb was about to gather, Jackson stuck out a foot and deflected the ball into a corner.

The last home goal, scored four minutes from the end, was a good one. Right-winger Hannigan, always a worker, beat both McNally and Alan Dennis as he went down the line and his centre was met by Dowsett's head and placed out of Cobb's reach.

Weymouth: Donnelly; Gulliver and Stocker; Barry, Hobson and Hall; Hannigan, Dowsett, Jackson, Gough and Camp.

Cambridge City: Cobb; Carroll and Dennis; Moyses, Barker and McNally; Fusedale, Spears, Bailham, Ward and Wall.

City colts had it all their own way

Playing on the second pitch at Milton Road because the main one was too wet, Cambridge City Colts and Histon took time to settle into their County F.A. Youth Cup semi-final. But the pattern which emerged was entirely favourable to City who eventually ran out 7-1 winners.

The City youngsters met stout resistance from their visitors - especially from Burkett, Histon's small, determined goalkeeper, whose pluck and luck kept the score below double figures.

Histon were in total defence when City's right back, Malle, burst through to hammer home the first goal. Histon defenders were still massed two minutes later when centre forward Newell podded a cross from the left wing into the right hand corner of the net, with Burkett going the other way.

Cullum made it 3-0 in the 32nd minute when Burkett stopped his shot on the wrong side of the goal line.

With so much of their effort con-

centrated on keeping the City bay, Histon were seldom able to mount attacks of their own. They lacked their opponents' cohesion and their few advances had a makeshift quality.

Pawley and Marr contributed to City's lead soon after the interval and the home side were shooting so freely that inside left Thurston's unexpected goal for Histon came right against the run of play.

But the goal was a mere consolation prize, for Newell and Marr quickly nettled to reassert the City's superiority, giving the sparse crowd two more feeling memories to carry away with them from a cold contest on a dismal day.

Haverhill give Bury a fright

Bury Town, the Metropolitan League side and holders retained the Suffolk Premier Cup by their 2-1 defeat over Haverhill but the Eastern Counties Leaguers shared the honours in a thrill-packed final.

Bury were never able to establish the expected supremacy over Haverhill and the match produced 90 minutes of cut and thrust soccer with Rovers every bit as forceful and dangerous as their opponents.

A crowd approaching 2,000 saw Haverhill go desperately close to springing a surprise for they were able to raise the standard of their game whereas Bury, the favourites, were below the form which has made them such a power in the Metropolitan League this season.

Haverhill played typical cup football, fighting and chasing for every ball, marking Bury closely

and refusing to be drawn into a duel of intricate passing attacks in which Bury were obviously the masters.

The Bury forwards had a first class service but rarely escaped the iron grip of the Haverhill defence in which Thorogood, Hart and Winney were stalwarts.

Not until the 40th minute could Bury score, and then from a Fred Basted free kick, the ball clearing the defensive wall and then suddenly dipping under the bar giving Colin Wright no chance. Haverhill's best period was in the early minutes of the second half when they swept Bury off their feet with a tide of attacking. This eventually resulting in Abbot equalising in the 62nd minute.

Bury however immediately struck back and Brian Basted headed a great goal.

Haverhill had a great chance to level when Copeman failed to hold a stinging shot from Griffiths and, Cutts, following up, needed only to tap into the empty goal but instead he scooped over the bar.

In their away match against Bury Reserves in the Border League on Friday evening, Haverhill Reserves won a point from a 2-2 draw and were unlucky not to have got two.

In a closely-fought first half, Bury took the lead through Curry but after the interval Haverhill got on top and after Peter Thake had equalised, Reg Hender put them into a 2-1 lead. Len Moore scored what looked a perfectly good goal for Haverhill but this was disallowed after the Bury trainer had run onto the field protesting. Bury snatched a point with a goal from a free kick three minutes before the final whistle.



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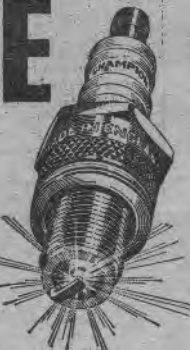
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