

HAMPSTEAD'S FAST ATTACK

From our Hockey Correspondent

Hampstead have begun the season in stirring fashion and although they only won 3-2 on Saturday came close to out-playing the Royal Artillery.

Many sides are going to have trouble in holding a lively attack which has now scored 27 goals in six matches. The strength in this game had its roots in some beautifully quick constructive play by Cardoza; the eager response to his finely judged passes by the ever thrustful Bell, who was a constantly menacing wing, and the threat, twice superbly realised, of Mallinson's hard first-time shooting.

The pitch at Cricklewood with its deep slope and uneven surface is not conducive to accurate hockey and the ball often reared violently but Hampstead, who are seeking a new home for next season, began at a considerable pace downhill. Within five minutes they were two up. Both goals were scored by Mallinson, who hit very hard indeed. The first crashed in from the edge of the circle whilst the Artillery defence was expecting a pass and the second was brilliantly taken from Cardoza's pass. Then Bartlett had a fine first-time shot and it was good to see the ball hit so decisively and quickly near goal.

During this early spell it was fortunate for the Artillery that their backs were in stout form. Howard's stopping and hitting of the erratically bouncing ball was of a high order and Truell as ever was uncommonly hard to beat. Finesse may not be the dominant theme of his play but he is immensely effective none the less. Selley also did some capable defensive work but with only moderate help from the wing halves was unable to give much support to an attack, which depended almost entirely on Burnett for its occasional openings.

Hampstead's third goal was finely fashioned with a crisp interchange of passes between Cardoza and Bell which the inside right completed with a quick shot. Shortly before half-time Croft's persistence in the face of several defenders was rewarded with a clear opening for Burnett. This goal just kept the Artillery in the hunt and when a fine shot from Selley was only deflected at the last second by Kay it seemed that his side in its turn might capitalise the advantage of the hill. But it was not to be and Cardoza was soon darting and weaving through once more.

Then a good move between Burnett, Smith, and Robb, who for once was on side, confused the Hampstead defence and gave Burnett a second goal. He would have equalised soon after had Potter on the line not saved splendidly a vicious shot from a short corner. This was only justice for the Artillery scarcely deserved to draw, Hampstead were still attacking hard, and Hayward should have eased his colleagues' minds by accepting one of the chances which came his way. Even then Hampstead might have scored several more but for Voxall, who kept a most capable goal in the absence of M. P. Waters.