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succeeded veteran **Ernie Gregory**. Dwyer who the Hammers signed from Wolves in the middle of December, has confirmed the tremendous promise he displayed with the Midlanders. Gregory also showed that the passing of the years has had no effect on his form when he deputised for his younger colleague recently.

Consistency was a marked feature of the Hammers' play last season. This was particularly noticeable in the closing stages, when they lost only two of their last ten engagements, winning five and drawing the remaining three, and that, don't forget, despite the absence of two of their forward key-men.

Their least successful spell was in the weeks before Christmas, when they suffered four consecutive defeats. They put an emphatic end to that, however, with a 6-0 home win over Portsmouth on December

20, and over the holidays registered a double over Spurs, winning 2-1 at home and 4-1 at White Hart Lane, as previously mentioned.

Other big wins were gained at the expense of Aston Villa (7-2), Blackburn Rovers (6-3) and Leeds United (5-1), all at Upton Park.

Away from home they registered six victories and three draws, a return which, while not so good as it might have been, again served to emphasise their ability to hold their own in the highest class. Three of their wins were over Bolton, Blackburn and Arsenal, none of whom are in the habit of making things easy for visiting teams.

In short, the Hammers have thoroughly justified their return to the First Division, and have abundantly proved that they can hold their own with the best teams in the country.

## Match Summaries

### FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Saturday, 12th September.

Lost to LEEDS UNITED (Away) 1-2. Half-time: 1-0.

Referee: Mr. F. Stringer (Liverpool).

Attendance: 17,000.

Team: Matthews; Sillett (P.), Tindall; McMillan, Scott, Anderton; Brabrook, Greaves, Livesey, Tambling, Blunstone.

Scorer: Greaves.

### FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Saturday, 12th September.

Beat SOUTHEND UNITED (Home) 7-1. Half-time: 3-1.

Team: Robertson; Sillett (J.), Whittaker; T. Venables, Cunningham, Compton; Corthine, Cliss, Bridges, Allen, Harrison.

Scorers: Corthine, Cliss 2, Bridges 2, Allen, Harrison.

### METROPOLITAN LEAGUE

Wednesday, 9th September.

Beat DARTFORD (Away) 3-2. Half-time: 2-1.

Team: Smart; Shellito, Legg; Dellar, Conroy, Long; Wall, Ray, Smith (K.), Allen, Block.

Scorers: Allen 2, Smith (K.).

Saturday, 12th September.

Lost to HEADINGTON UNITED (Hendon) 1-2. Half-time: 1-1.

Team: Smart; Shillito, Legg; Dellar, Conroy, Long; Wall, Smith (K.), Abrey, Ray, Block.

Scorer: Ray.

Monday, 14th September.

Beat WEST HAM UNITED (Away) 4-2. Half-time: 2-1.

Team: Tennant; Shellito, Legg; Bradbury, Abrey, Long; Wall, Ray, Smith (K.), Block, Carter.

Scorers: Wall, Ray, Smith (K.), Block.

### SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Saturday, 5th September.

Beat MILLWALL (Away) 2-0. Half-time: 1-0.

Team: Bonetti; D. Butler, A. Harris; R. Seaman, J. Smith, T. More; D. Harkness, R. Lennox, C. Shaw, G. Bollard, M. Robinson.

Scorer: Shaw 2.

Saturday, 12th September.

Beat TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (Away) 7-2. Half-time: 3-0.

Team: Bonetti; D. Butler, A. Harris; M. Scotting, T. More, M. Robinson; R. Hanley, C. Shaw, D. Harkness, G. Bollard, A. Murray.

Scorers: Bollard 3 (1 pen.), Harkness 2, Murray, Hanley.



**JIMMY GREAVES**

who scored his second hat-trick of the season on Wednesday evening.