

New York State Revisited: Exeter University Football Tour 1972.

Steve Perkins (1970-1973) – with acknowledgement to John Gilbert's archive.

When Ted Wragg (then an education lecturer at Exeter Uni and football-mad fan) met Francisco Marcos (who promoted college football (soccer) in New York State) during a US study tour they talked soccer. Ted learnt from Francisco that the annual Oneonta tournament was keen to host a UK university and so Ted enthusiastically mentioned this to John Gilbert (Captain 1st X1 1971-72). Soon after, an invitation to take part in EUAFC's most ambitious tour was accepted. The planning began.

On the 6 September 1972 the Oneonta Star carried a sporting news feature:

*'The summer is fast nearing a close: and without the slightest hesitation in the Oneonta sports scene, soccer and football will take up where baseball leaves off. First on the local scene will be a soccer tournament to be hosted by Oneonta United next Tuesday and Wednesday in Damaschke Field. The highlight of the four-team tourney will be the appearance of the **University of Exeter** both nights'.*

In those planning days John Gilbert had put a squad together comprising current undergraduates and recent alumni covering the 7 years from 1966 - 1973 - 'Youth & experience'. On Monday September 11th 1972 the party flew out of Heathrow on the 15.15 BOAC flight to New York arriving safely 18.05 local time and staying overnight at the popular (with students) McAlpine Hotel. For many, this was a first visit to America, a country embroiled in the Vietnam war, in the midst of a presidential election campaign (incumbent Richard Nixon later defeating democrat George McGovern). Amongst a spate of plane hijackings, the 'Munich massacre' on September 5th at the Summer Olympics had placed nations on high alert. Sport was in deep mourning.

The stay in New York was brief with a Greyhound bus trip (another favourite of many students who travelled across the US in their summer vacation) beckoning to play in the four team Oneonta 'tourney' with Exeter 'squaring off' at 8 pm in their semi-final. On route the bus passed near Woodstock and memories of the great music festival of 1969 surfaced. Dave Whitney, however, nearly lost his famed trademark Afghan coat at a Bus station as a woman took a fancy to the coat (not Dave; well, we think not Dave!), and casually tried to pick it up from his bag at the Bus Station. 1969 may have been the recent summer of free love, but 1972 was not to be the summer of free coats!

And so to Oneonta where the team were greeted by host Francisco Marcos and introduced to families who they would be spending the 2-night stay with at the beginning and end of tour. For many being in American's homes was something of a revelation as a new lifestyle unfolded, of size and gadgets. This included enormous breakfasts and being introduced to the nightlife of Oneonta. Was this American hospitality at its finest or all part of a cunning plan?

John Gilbert and I found ourselves residing on the outskirts of, well, Gilbert Lake! Where else?



For a moment I wondered if John knew something I didn't!

The local media wanted to hear about the University and its players. In the afternoon Ian Murray gave a local radio interview. In the press the Oneonta Star gave Exeter some leeway if their performance was not as expected. *"The first game with Oneonta Utd will be their first game in a while as they are just coming off their summer vacation"* A good call as fatigue took its toll in the opening game.

Match 1: Oneonta Utd 1 Exeter University 2.

The press put tiredness as the reason for a sub-par display and indeed quoted an Exeter spokesman as saying *"we had 11 zombies playing tonight"* (rumoured to be attributable to Phil Chamberlain). But, then sometimes, you have to win 'ugly'! In front of a crowd of around 250 a brace of goals from Terry Phillips was enough to seal victory and a tourney final against Oneonta State University.

Match 2: Oneonta State University 0 Exeter University 3

The second game of the tour and a final, a win and a Cup, and a most valuable player trophy award.

Controversy occurred early in the match as Phil Chamberlain was floored by Oneonta forward Altamont McKenzie in the 5th minute. As the Oneonta Star headline later reported: *'Red Dragons show wrong kind of Punch'*. A critical turning point so early in the game? Well, an older Altamont McKenzie would play internationally for Jamaica between 1980-82. Phil C may well have 'taken one for the team'. For those who want more detail The Oneonta Star report is included below. Your correspondent was awarded the MVP award for the tournament – happy days and some additional baggage for the flight home!

Two goals from Martin Oakes and one from Alan Young ensured victory with Exeter playing much more fluent football than in the opening game.

Only two games in and a Tournament in the bag! Matches coming thick and fast and it was on to Syracuse and Le Moyne College after post-match celebrations.

Headline: 'Red Dragons show wrong kind of Punch!

Exeter U. wins 3-0

By JUD MAGRIN
Star Sports Editor

A solid right to the jaw of Exeter's Bill Chamberlain by Altamont McKenzie may have cost Oneonta State a win in last night's tournament final at Damaschke Field.

The action came about five minutes into the first half. Chamberlain tried to tackle McKenzie from behind and the latter felt it was a dirty play. McKenzie turned and gave Chamberlain a shot in the mouth, dropping him to the ground.

A conference followed to determine whether international rules were being recognized in the tourney. They were. McKenzie was ejected by referee Mike Rossi and O-State had to continue with just 10 men for the remainder of the game.

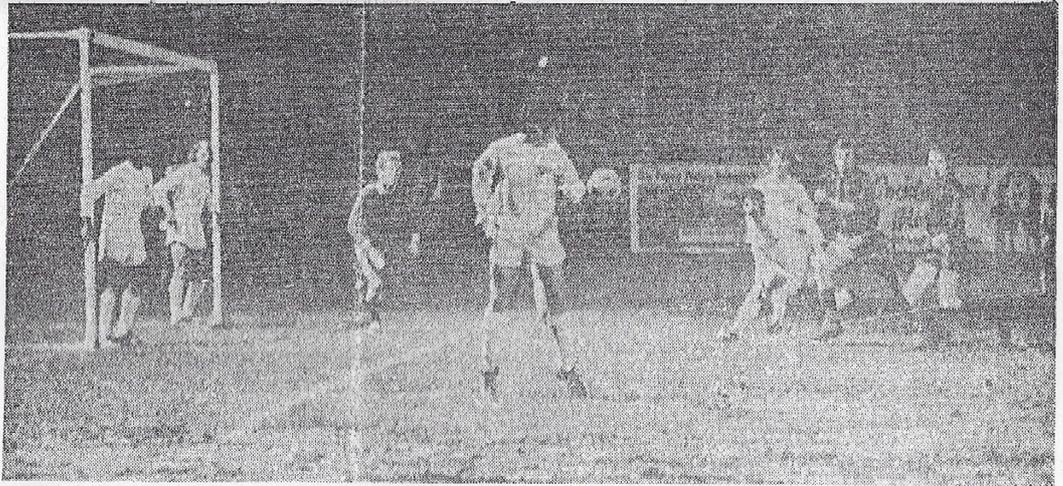
Exeter University went on to win the contest, 3-0, and take home the championship iron. Exeter's Steve Perkins was named most valuable player for the tournament.

In the consolation game, Oneonta United again surprised many with a 1-0 win over Elizabethtown College. Leslie Cooper scored the lone goal of the game on a picture play.

About one minute after State began playing with 10 men Exeter took advantage. Marty Oakes scored his first of a pair of goals on an assist by Dave Whitney.

The deficit was obvious in the Red Dragon attack as they stayed in the game defensively.

The second Exeter goal was dubbed by Lady Luck as O-State goalie Doug Koch let a ball slide through his arms. Alan Young was credited for the unassisted tally. At that point Joe Howarth, Farrukh Quraishi and Desmond Montoe, all late returnees for practice, entered the game



Oneonta State's Fernando Tiago (foreground) waits for ball to catch up while other Dragons defenders protect goal. Near post is Ralph Perez and far post is

Mike Ballard. Goalie Doug Koch heads for ball. Other Dragons are Max Shmuel and Dave North.

(Staff photo by Blum)

for State. But it made little difference.

The half ended with the score 2-0 and the rest of the game was academic with Exeter goalie Simon Dobbs highlighting the Englishmen's play along with Perkins and Whitney. Dobbs made several pretty, diving saves in the late going to preserve a shutout.

The final Exeter score came late in the game on a fine play starting at midfield. Young fed the ball wide to Whitney who in turn crossed the ball in front of the goal mouth. Oakes banged it home.

Once again last night the attendance for the brand of soccer was poor. About 250 people attended the championship contest.

Exeter will move on to Binghamton to play Binghamton State, the Binghamton Soccer Club, then Cornell, and they will return to Oneonta one week from Saturday to play Hart-



Match 3: Le Moyne College 1 Exeter University 1

Described in the local press as a “full-scale scrimmage” the 11 am kick off did not see EUAFC at their sharpest after spending the previous day coaching the Le Moyne team (see photo below) and being looked after on campus. A below par performance saved by a Terry Phillips goal in the second half. Perhaps we had coached Le Moyne too well in the art of kicking ‘English style’. (see photo of Andy Childs) Fortunately, this did not include demonstrations of the ‘kicking styles’ of Norman Hunter, Nobby Stiles, Peter Storey, Ron Harris and other contemporary luminaries of the professional English soccer scene.



Kicking—English Style

The Le Moyne College soccer team will host touring Exeter University of England in a scrimmage soccer game today at 11 a.m. Among the participants will be (from left) coach Tony May of Exeter, coach Keith Gage of

Le Moyne, Andy Charles and Mickey Smith of Exeter and co-captains Roland Ficken and Rick Meyer of Le Moyne. Absent is Le Moyne co-captain Paul Petrus.

Day 7 of the tour and an early morning coach trip to Harper College, Binghamton for an afternoon fixture against SUNY Binghamton and a Day 9 fixture against Binghamton All Stars.

Accommodation on campus with the numbers of pets a source of much surprise.

Match 4: SUNY Binghamton 0 Exeter University 3

A solid win by Exeter although the match report (attached) suggests a closer contest on game stats. First half goals from Dave Whitney (dribbling through the SUNY defence unassisted) and Martin Oakes and a second half goal from Rob Thomas saw Exeter home. Both national anthems were played before the match which was attended by some 600 spectators. A day and a half to relax on campus before Match 5 with plenty of hospitality and discussion with American students, several had been / were set to tour Vietnam.

THE SUN-BULLETIN — ART WILKINSON

Dan Goldstein deflects a shot behind the net in front of two Exeter attackers.

Exeter tops SUNY booters

England's touring Exeter University defeated SUNY Binghamton, 3-0 in an exhibition soccer match in a drizzling rain at the Vestal Parkway campus yesterday.

The game was closely contested all the way. Exeter outshot the Colonials by only 17-14.

Forward Dave Whitney put Exeter on the scoreboard for the first time at 37:41 of the first half when he dribbled through the Colonial defense to score unassisted.

Marty Oakes booted in Exeter's second goal unassisted with only 44 seconds remaining in the half and Rob Thomas closed the scoring with a tally at 4:54 of the second half, also unassisted.

"They were a good team," Colonial coach Tim Sehum said after the game. "They overloaded some areas of the field on us. We didn't adjust well and had to do a lot more running off the ball.

"We had several good scoring opportunities. If we had gotten one it may have changed the complexion of the game. But they were solid, especially their fullbacks. They slowed us down and made us do what we didn't want. They paced the game."

Goalie Dan Goldstein recorded nine saves for SUNY. Simon Dobbs had three for Exeter and teammate Colin Appleby saved four. SUNY meets Hamilton in a 4 p.m. match Thursday.

The Colonials' cross country team finished sixth of an 11-team field in the first annual Syracuse Invitational Championship Saturday at Drumlin Country Club in the only other local college weekend action.

The scores, based on elapsed times for seven runners, showed Syracuse first, followed by Lafayette and Cortland State. Syracuse won six of the individual races, from the number two man through number seven.

Tom Carter of Niagara University, who formerly ran for Seton High, set a new course record of 21:06 for 4.1 miles. Carter captured the race to the number one men from each school.

SUNY Binghamton's next outing will be in a dual meet at LeMoyne College in Syracuse Saturday at 1 p.m.

The game was viewed by over 600 fans despite the persistent rain.

Exeter	3	1-3
SUNY	0	0-0

Exeter scoring: Dave Whitney-1st half, 37:41 (Unassisted); Marty Oakes-1st half, 0:44 (Unassisted); Rob Thomas-2nd half, 4:54 (Unassisted).

Shots — Exeter 17, SUNY 14.

Corner Kicks — Exeter 9, SUNY 4.

by E. J. Dan Goldstein (SUNY)

Match 5: Binghampton All Stars 2 Exeter University 3.

A tight match in which partying may have had an effect! Your correspondent recalls (vaguely) having to stand down from the match after being introduced to Tequila sunrise at a social gathering the evening before! The most physical of Exeter's opponents with Exeter having to come twice from behind to win. A first half Ian Murray equaliser and second half goals from Terry Phillips and Alan Young preserved the unbeaten tour record.

Day 10 and 6 more to go! Early morning drive to Cornell University. The campus, resplendent in the onset of fall (autumn) colour and overlooking a lake and cut through by 2 spectacular gorges with many waterfalls, is home to some 14,000 students and is one of the 8 prestigious 'Ivy League' universities. Accommodation was in a dormitory on campus next to the 25,000 seater stadium, reflecting the national status of College (American) football.



The line-up was:

Back - Alan Young, Phil Chamberlain, Dave Whitney, Mickey Smith, Dick Head, Terry Phillips, Micky Clarkson, Andy Childs.

Front - John Gilbert, Ian Murray, Martin Oakes, Steve Perkins, Tony May, Rob Thomas, Simon Dobbs.

Colin Appleby was also on the tour and I think taking the photograph.

The team photograph (above) was taken after training in the stadium for the match the following evening. The impression of bigness was further reinforced in the changing rooms with the size of Cornell's American footballers body protection. New York Jets legend Joe Namath or Pele / George Best (who was by now US based) often cropped up in conversations about the claims of rival footballing codes.

Cornell was the first co-educational institution in the east and in its 1969 Campus Guide restated its policy to support the American ideal of opportunity for all and to not discriminate. Exeter's tourists found out at first hand the special charm Cornell instils in its students being invited to dinner and party with a group of sophomore (second year students), who cooked a memorable meal and showed the Exeter players around the campus in the twilight.

Match 6: Cornell University 3 Exeter University 7.

The signature fixture of the tour against the 'Big Red'. Played in the 25,000 seater stadium under lights although with fewer than 1,000 spectators. The 'Big Red' as Cornell are known were rated as second behind Hartwick College in the New York State pre-season soccer college poll. The programme showed a Cornell roster of 22 players under a retinue of a coach, 2 managers, a trainer and 2 non-playing co-captains.

The first half was fiercely competitive, finishing 2-2. In the second half Exeter upped the ante, rose to the challenge and played in state of 'flow' running out 7-3 winners. The opening two goals 'classically worked'. The first a low cross from Terry Philips and a bullet near post header from Ian Murray on his rare excursion as striker. The second, Richard Head and Ian Murray drawing defenders to the front post and leaving Dave Whitney to score unopposed. Martin Oakes hit a screamer in the second half. Both Murray and Oakes added further goals to complete second half hat-tricks. A tremendous victory and EUAFC's best football of the tour. The Cornell coach sat slumped in the dugout, his hands in his head, not even their classy striker Victor Huerta, rumoured to have played junior football for Ecuador, could salvage Cornell pride (see match report below).

*English Visitors
Drub Cornell*

In what very well may prove to have been the toughest game of the year, the Cornell soccer team came out on the short end of a 7-3 score at the hands of Exeter University, in an exhibition game last night at Schoellkopf Field.

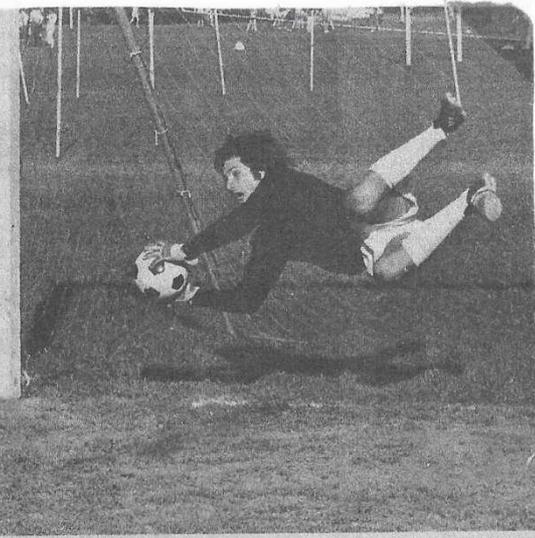
Cornell managed to match Exeter in the first half as Vic Huerta scored two Cornell goals. But in the second half, Exeter, never beaten by an American college, showed its class. With fine teamwork, crisp passing, and three goals by Marty Oakes, Exeter outscored Cornell 5-1.

Huerta opened the scoring for Cornell at the 18 minute mark of the first half as Chris Agoliati lined up for a direct kick. He faked a pass and Huerta lined a shot over an Exeter human wall, past the unsuspecting goalie. At this point Exeter came alive. Jerry Philips broke down the right side and made a beautiful pass to Ian Murray who headed the ball into the nets to tie the score at 1-1.

The Red countered with its best offensive effort of the evening, culminated by Huerta's penalty kick. Dave Whitney came back for Exeter, heading the ball into the nets off a corner kick, making the halftime score 2-2.

Cornell opened the second half scoring on another penalty kick by Huerta, but that was all the scoring Cornell managed. After tying the score on a head shot by Ian Murray, Exeter took control, putting four more goals past Ken McCumiskey, who played the second half.

— Ellen Wetter



— Photo by Randall McCrelght

Sophomore goaltender Ken McCumiskey made this artistic practice save, and then fell victim to a second-half Exeter attack that blasted five balls past him into the net.

Scenes of revelry, celebration and hard partying in the local Holiday Inn ensued – a tour night to remember! ...or have forgotten! The next day a re-run of the match was played on video, sadly no copy was kept! For some players the lure of the nearby Niagara Falls was too good an opportunity not to miss. Others were entertained by new-found friends and one or two may even have tiptoed through the Cornell tulips.

And so, on to our final match (Day 13), to play Hartwick College, Oneonta ... and undefeated. *'Exeter exhibition could tell the tale for Hartwick booters'* was the Oneonta Star's headline as Hartwick looked forward to their season. Their coach who watched the *'impressive 7-3 pasting of the Big Red'* believed a victory would mean the season would go all right.

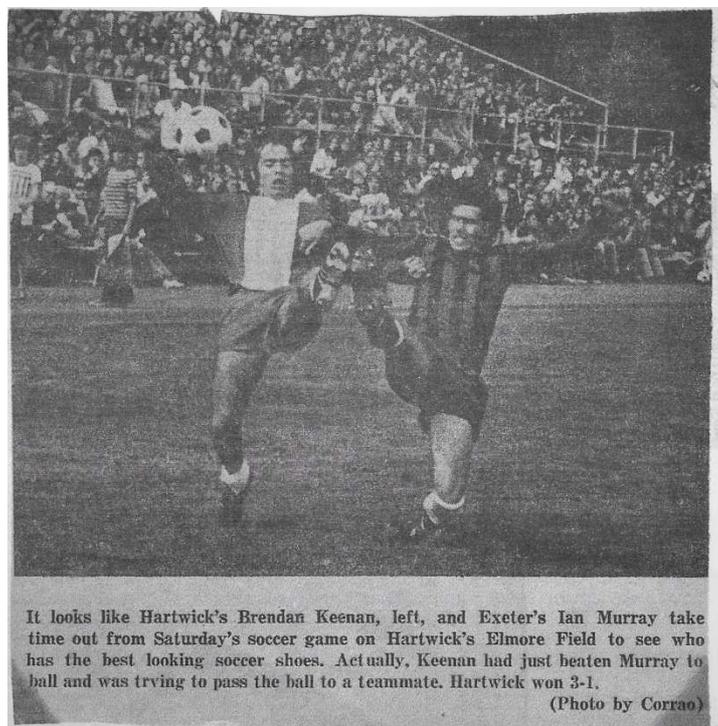
Footnote: Cornell had one of their most successful seasons in 1972 – they reached the NCAA semi final in that year losing to UCLA 1-0. Victor Huerta (striker) was the first two time All-Ivy forward on the Big Red soccer teams of 1971 and 1972. He set Cornell's all-time records in the season 1972 and was inducted into Cornell's Hall of fame in 1978.

Bruce Arena (Goalkeeper that night) is currently Head Coach of New England Revolution having replaced Brad Friedel and coached the US national team between 1998 – 2006 and 2016 – 2017.

Dan Wood - the coach that night who was slumped with his hands in his head! Dan Wood unfortunately passed away on May 7 2020. During each of his five years as Cornell University's head soccer coach his teams qualified for the NCAA post-season tournament, advancing to the National Final Four in 1972. He is the career winning-percentage record holder among Cornell soccer coaches. Following his time at Cornell, Wood coached professionally in the American Soccer League (ASL) and the North American Soccer League (NASL) with the Tacoma Tides, the Colorado Caribous and the Atlanta Chiefs. Wood was also an accomplished golfer, earning full PGA membership in 1988 and qualifying for the 1992 PGA Championship.

Match 7: Hartwick College, Oneonta 3 Exeter University 1

Here the tour caught up with Exeter both on and off the field. Hartwick were a good side who ranked 6th in US colleges and who benefitted from two UK sports scholars, brothers who hailed from semi pro football on Merseyside, one of whom played for the all-American team, Brendan Keenan (see photo below with Ian Murray).



Even before a ball had been kicked, off field activities had caught up with one or two team members! Mickey Smith had to offer pre match advice to Phil Chamberlain, who had to confront new found supporters. On the field Hartwick dominated and went 2-0 up in the first half only to be pegged back by a Terry Phillips goal just after the interval. Exeter were close to equalising with two point-blank shots well saved by the former Liverpool youth team keeper. A goal in the 75th minute sealed the match for Hartwick in front of the biggest crowd of around 1,000 spectators.

So defeated in our final tour match, but not dejected. Whether we had partied too well, enjoyed US hospitality too keenly or whether we had been simply 'sophomored', or just outplayed, there was no time for an inquest. After two days rest and relaxation in Oneonta, where playing pool became very competitive with the locals, it was time for the coach back to New York (most experiencing their first McDonalds Big Mac on route) and then flying back Pan Am overnight with a lifetime of memories. And, of course, as any sporting tourist will know, some of what went on tour has stayed there! Our 1972 footballing 'American Pie' was over! But, as Don McClean's top single of 1972 reminds us, it was a long, long time ago!



Overall Tour Record

Played 7 Won 5 Drawn 1 Lost 1 Goals For: 20 Against: 9

Goals: Martin Oakes 6: Terry Phillips 5: Ian Murray 4: Alan Young 2: Dave Whitney 2: Rob Thomas 1

Tourists

Colin Appelby (1966-69), Simon Dobbs (1970-73), Mickey Smith (1966-69), Phil Chamberlain (1969-72), Martin Oakes (1968-71), Ian Murray (1968-72), Alan Young (1967-70), Andy Childs (1968-71), Steve Perkins (1970-73), Terry Phillips (1970-73), Dave Whitney (1969-72), Micky Clarkson (1967-72), Tony May (1968-72), Rob Thomas (1967-70), Richard Head (1966-69), John Gilbert (1969-72)