

Manchester United have Italians under control

By a Special Correspondent: Manchester U. 2, Italian Olympic XI 0

Manchester United, after a somewhat wayward beginning, had little difficulty in defeating Italy's Olympic probables 2-0 at Old Trafford last night through goals by Kidd, his first for the senior team in this country, and Stiles.

They settled the issue much more decisively than the score suggests, in spite of a spectacular but highly effective display by Vecchi, the Italian's goalkeeper and the stout resistance of Botti, Battisodo, and Cresci. This defeat was the fourth of the Italians' five-match English tour, the other game, at Southampton, resulting in a draw 2-2. But no doubt their selectors will be well satisfied by the unique experiment of bringing some of their most promising players here for training and match play in preparation for the Mediterranean Games in Tunis next month and the Olympic Games in Mexico next year.

With great industry and not a little of the finesse associated with their professional counterparts, the Italian amateurs created an excellent impression in the first half. They were lively, often enterprising in attack, and they tested the United defence on more than one occasion, notably when Savoldi confirmed his reputation with a rising drive against a post and then brought Stepnev to his knees by crisply volleying the rebound.

This forward, for whom Inter Milan are reported to have offered £150,000 to his club, Atlanta, often was a source of embarrassment to United, displaying a change of pace and direction worthy of Charlton or Best. The Italians had a commanding half back line in which Battisodo was often a formidable figure. Vecchi did all that was asked of him in spite of conceding two goals in the first half—to Kidd, after 33 minutes, and Stiles, three minutes before the interval.

Kidd, closely shadowed by Cresci, had had little opportunity

to show the promise he revealed in the Charity Shield match on Saturday, but when Crerand, finding length and direction at once, put him through, the shot which followed was an excellent one. Scala emphasised the Italians' poor luck by hitting the angle of cross bar and post with a fierce shot before Stiles, following an interchange of passes with Crerand, made it 2-0 with a well hit drive.

The goals preceded by a barrage initiated by Best at his most dazzling and carried on by Charlton with his powerful shooting, set the pattern for the rest of the match, which became nothing more than a hard pre-season workout for the champions. United were never extended after Anastasi had missed the best chance of the match when the home defence stood still and waited in vain for offside to be given.

The pattern was not disturbed when Dunne retired with a leg strain and Savoldi followed him to the touchline. The substitutes, respectively were Sadler and Parola.

MANCHESTER UNITED. — Stepnev, Brennan, Dunne, Crerand, Foulkes, Stiles, Best, Law, Charlton, Kidd, Aston.

ITALIAN OLYMPIC XI.—Vecchi, Pasotti, Chiaruzzi, Scala, Anastasi, Fara, Savoldi, Botti, Battisodo, Cresci, Vismando.

Referee: I. Finney (Hereford).