

Metchick and Willis shine in Orient's FA cup win



Orient's first goal crashing into the net from white-shirted O'Brien, pictured behind Cliff Holton.

Leyton Orient 2, Lowestoft 1.

By Bernard Callaghan

ORIENT took a hesitant first step along the FA Cup trail on Saturday in a victorious mud battle over a super-fit, fighting Lowestoft side. The game produced two Orient heroes, inside forward Dave Metchick and goalkeeper Ron Willis, who claimed the giant's share of credit in this cup triumph.

Metchick stamped on the match a hallmark of genuine class. He roved intelligently, tormented the Lowestoft defence, and scored Orient's second goal. Willis saved the day for his side when he brilliantly stopped a penalty at one of the most crucial stages in the game.



One that didn't quite make it. This close-range header from Cliff Holton found its way directly into the hands of Lowestoft goalkeeper Mutton. (Pictures by "Guardian" photographer Archie McNeice.)

Lowestoft kept the game alive and tense until the final whistle. They never abandoned hope and the sharpshooting partnership of Tooley and Cassidy never allowed Orient's defenders to ease up an inch.

The Eastern Counties visitors were forced on the defensive by Orient's eager forwards in the initial stages and Orient looked as if they would be comfortable winners when Whitehouse put them in front after 14 minutes.

Rocketing

The goal was a splendid solo effort. Whitehouse collected a loose ball on the edge of the Lowestoft penalty area and sent it rocketing into the net with a first-time drive.

Lowestoft were kept under pressure and had it not been for cool defensive work they would have been further in arrears by the interval.

Holton twice came near with headers and Metchick had Mutton in the Lowestoft goal twice at full stretch with sizzling drives.

Orient wingers Werge and Price were subdued by Lowestoft's tough defenders but Metchick and Holton struck up a better understanding than in any previous game this season.

Lowestoft gradually came more into the game, with Mike Tooley and 19-year-old Nigel Cassidy showing some of the form which has made them the Club's top scorers.

Orient's goal twice survived dangerous Lowestoft efforts in minutes preceding the interval.

The defence was clearly at sea when a cross by winger Fossan spun into the goalmouth and seconds later when a Tooley shot skimmed inches above the bar with Willis unglazed.

Penalty save

It was during these vital minutes that Lowestoft were awarded a penalty. Went bringing down Cassidy.

Mike Tooley — who rarely misses from the spot — sent in a terrific shot which was miraculously anticipated by Willis. The keeper dived to his right in an immeasurable fraction of time to smother the ball.

Lowestoft kept up their menace in the second half but were further behind in the 79th minute. Dave Metchick scored after originating the move leading to the goal. He flicked the ball accurately from midfield to Bradbury and moved postwarwards for the return pass. He shot from 15 yards, well out of Mutton's reach.

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The crowd of 6,623 — a sizeable party of 1, from Lowestoft — was the biggest of the season at Brisbane-road.

Leyton Orient: Willis, Jones, Parnaby, Whitehouse, Went, Bradbury, Werge, O'Brien, Holton, Metchick, Price, Sam-Carter.

Lowestoft: Mutton, Saunders, Dove, Moran, Thurlow, Butcher, Deane, Cassidy, Tooley, Mills, Fossan.

GEORGE O'BRIEN, former goal-scoring hero of Southampton, found that old touch again when he made his first appearance for ALDERSHOT. Signed for £3,000 from Leyton Orient, O'Brien plotted the destruction of SOUTHEND and scored one himself.