

ORIENT SHOCK 'MARINERS'

Grimsby's first home league defeat

Grimsby 1, Orient 2

THE small band of faithful Orient fans who made the trip to Lincolnshire on Saturday were rewarded by a sparkling display which resulted in Grimsby Town's first home league defeat of the season.

There was little wonder that those Leyton followers seemed to make more noise than the rest of the crowd. For the Orient thoroughly deserved their surprise win.

They were a goal ahead after only three minutes when Grimsby's goalkeeper Harry Wainman was caught napping by a 25-yard snap shot from Cliff Holton. But that was the only piece of luck Orient needed.

From then on they were more than a match for a desperate Grimsby side which had been knocked out of the cup by Fourth Division Crewe only three days earlier and was clearly lacking in confidence.

All the pressure they could exert was easily absorbed by a defence in which pivot Paul Went was outstanding, and it was the Orient attack which always seemed to present the greater threat.

So it was not unexpected when Terry Price consolidated the lead in the 57th minute with a close range shot after a drive from Bradbury had been blocked.

Grimsby did pull one goal back towards the end through Billy Rudd but the determined Orient defence made sure the Mariners' fight for an equaliser was in vain.

Apart from a cool and resourceful rearguard which gave little away, Orient were well served up front by the graft of Metchick and the hard shooting Price.

Grimsby Town: Wainman, Thompson, Taylor, Jobling, Rathbone, Cookerill, Ross, Tees, Green, Rudd, Martin.
Leyton Orient: Willis, Jones, Forsyth, Whitehouse, Went, Bradbury, Price, Carter, Holton, Metchick, Werge.

'Ray of hope'

Crisis-hit Leyton Orient, who are losing winger Dick Le Flem, are deep in the relegation mire after losing both Christmas games and have six of their 22 professionals on the injured list, but manager Dick Graham says: "I can see a bright ray of hope if we can hold on."

Le Flem, 24-year-old Young England international, who cost £2,000 when signed from Middlesbrough last season, has not returned from a Christmas holiday in the Channel Islands.

"He turned down the chance of going to Lincoln last week," says Graham. "He indicated that he is thinking of giving up football and if that is what he wants, we shall release him from his contract."

Wingers Eddie Werge, who had his broken nose set today, and Terry Pirce, and back David Forsyth are added to the injury list which includes Tom Jenkins, George Goodgame and John Snedden.

None is available for Friday's away game with Scunthorpe and Graham comments, "We could not have wished for a worse Christmas than losing both games to Bristol Rovers."

"But there is a ray of sunshine—the form of youngsters Terry Street, Paul Went and Ron Willis.

If we can scrape through this mess and hold on to next season, our youngsters promise a much brighter future."

HOLTON PEP HAS OLDHAM IN A SPIN

By REG GUTTERIDGE

CLIFF HOLTON, the Football League's highest scoring player still in action, netted his 281st goal today.

And it gave Third Division strugglers Leyton Orient a boost against Oldham in the mud and sand at Brisbane Road.

A 20th minute penalty was kid's stuff to Cliff, but the early lead inspired Orient against promotion seekers Oldham.

A fine header by Carte, increased Orient's lead but Oldham pulled one back by half-time.

Holton was always in the picture and within a minute warned Oldham when he blasted in a free-kick that was gladly diverted for a corner.

Then Holton laid on a chance for Carter but 18-year-old Curran made a blinding save.

Brian Whitehouse twice required treatment after colliding with an Oldham defender. Holton hit in his spot-kick after Dave Metchick had been held by full-back Ken Knighton.

Orient were clicking with fire and enthusiasm and much-improved CARTER leaped gloriously to head home Eddie Werge's cross in the 29th minute.

It was all Orient. Metchick and Holton sprayed around accurate long passes and then they gave away a soft goal after 41 minutes.

BLORE scored with his knee from a cross.

HT: Orient 2, Oldham 1.
Oldham's player-manager Jimmy McIlroy, came on as substitute, replacing Towers and passed orders first-hand as mid-field link.

Holton tried to unnerve the teenage Oldham goalkeeper by harassing but was penalised for pushing.

McIlroy's presence boosted Oldham and LARGE equalised in the 69th minute.

Orient: Willis, Jones, Forsyth; Whitehouse, Went, Bradbury; Price, Carter, Holton, Metchick, Werge; Sub: Allen.

Oldham: Curran, Ledger, Knighton, Fritzell, Asprey, Bowie, Bebbington, Towers, Large, Collins, Blore. Sub: McIlroy.

Barton pegs the Orient

By ALAN THOMPSON

Scunthorpe 2, L. Orient 2



WITH the last serious kick of the match 18-year-old Frank Barton robbed Leyton Orient of two points at Scunthorpe last night.

This match was in injury time when inside right Barton let fly with a hard low drive from outside the penalty area which left Leyton goalkeeper Graham Willis spellbound.

This was Leyton Orient's last match under that name—as of the New Year they will be known simply as "Orient"—and they deserved to round off the year with a win.

The early part belonged almost exclusively to Leyton and they built up a 0-2 lead through Cliff Holton and Dave Metchick.

David Sloan scored with a lob for Scunthorpe.

Orient were unlucky when a Metchick inswinger from a corner went curling into goal only for the referee to disallow the point as a colleague interfered with play.

Orient could count themselves even more unlucky when Barton scored for 1 reckon the goal came in the 91st minute, even allowing for injury time.

PALACE HELP ORIENT—WOOD GOES ON 'EASY TERMS'

CRYSTAL PALACE

last night gave hard-up Leyton Orient a helping hand, writes Nigel Clarke.

They agreed to sell defender Brian Wood for a £5,000 fee—to be paid off by instalments.

The deal went through after Orient manager Dick Graham, who left Palace earlier this year, had talks with the player at Selhurst Park.

Graham said last night: "Palace have let us have Wood at a very reasonable fee. They have helped us by letting us pay over a period of time."

So Wood, who has made 142 appearances for Palace, joins up again with his old boss. It was Graham who took Wood to Palace from West Bromwich in 1961.

Wood plays for Orient against Scunthorpe tonight.

TWO UP, THEN Orient lose point in injury time

Scunthorpe United 2, Leyton Orient 2

by Dave Soulsby

WITH 15 seconds of injury time remaining, Scunthorpe's inside-right, Barton, fired in a tremendous 20-yard shot to snatch a point from Orient's grasp. It was a hard knock but perhaps a fitting end to a very entertaining match at the Old Show Ground on Friday night.

The O's did well to withstand an early barrage and, in turn, were unlucky not to have scored two more goals midway through the second half when they clicked into gear with Dave Metchick and veteran Cliff Holton working some exciting moves.

Full marks, too, for their stout defensive play, particularly newcomer Brian Wood, 26-year-old left-half from Crystal Palace, who was signed 24 hours before the kick-off. He added strength to Orient's defence, tightening it up and earning loud applause from the 5,343 fans for his distribution.

If the defence can continue to show the same determination in future weeks, then fears of a drop into Division Four can be put aside.

Courageous Willis

Scunthorpe have some clever, tricky ball players in their front line but found little joy against burly right-half Terry Bradbury, Wood and keeper Ron Willis.

Willis displayed great courage on several occasions when making diving saves at the feet of onrushing forwards. He took a slight bang in the 11th minute but was back on his feet again after treatment.

Orient shot into the lead after 20 minutes when a dipping centre from Brian Whitehouse found Holton just outside the box and unmarked. The ex-Arsenal man made no mistake with his half-volleyed kick as home keeper Clemence stayed rooted to his line.

There was no further scoring in the first half despite quick, snappy raids by both teams.

Two minutes after the restart, however, Metchick made it 2-0 for Orient with an overhead kick, the ball appearing to strike Scunthorpe centre-half Horstead before entering the corner of the net.

With the game seemingly in



(015) Brian Wood, 26-year-old signing from Crystal Palace, who made his debut for the Brisbane-road club at Scunthorpe. Wood, a wing-half, impressed most people who saw him and it should not be long before he repays the £5,000 he cost the financially struggling O's.

the bag, the O's relaxed their grip and paid the penalty, outside-right Sloan pulling one back for the Lincolnshire side in the 72nd minute.

At 2-1 the game still looked safe for Orient but then popped Barton with his point-saving effort.

Scunthorpe: Clemence, Hemstead, Taylor, Smith, Horstead, Burkinshaw, Sloan, Barton, Burrows, Lindsey, Colquhoun.

Orient: Willis, Jones, Allen, Bradbury, Went, Wood, Whitehouse, Metchick, Holton, Carter, Price.

Barton robs Orient in last 15 seconds

Scunthorpe 2, Leyton Orient 2: By PETER COOPER

A 20-YARD shot by Scunthorpe inside right Frank Barton—only 15 seconds from the end—robbed Orient of a Third Division victory last night.

Scunthorpe seemed booked for defeat when centre forward Cliff Holton rammed in a great half-volley in the 19th minute, and inside Dave Metchick made it 2-0 from a free kick two minutes after the interval.

I gave Scunthorpe no chance despite the danger of Barton. But right winger David Sloan put them back in the game by volleying in a Bobby Smith centre.

Then, as Orient's defence retreated, Barton swooped on a throw-in and his killer shot left Orient with just enough time to kick off

RESULTS

THIRD DIVISION

Scunthorpe 2 L. Orient 2
Sloan, Holton
Barton, Metchick
H-T: 0-1
S. 343

FOURTH DIVISION

Tranmere 3 Bradford C. 1
Hall
Yardley 2
A. King
S. 332



"By the way, ref—that player you sent off this afternoon left a message for you!"