

THAT'S BETTER, ORIENT!

They take their time to squash Posh

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O's LOSE TWO-GOAL LEAD



Picture by Archie McNeice (305)

Cliff Holton's shot completely beats goalkeeper Boswell to put Orient one up after eight minutes.

Orient 2, Shrewsbury 2. By Vince Wright

A SERIOUS tactical error cost Orient a valuable point in their home match with Shrewsbury on Saturday. Two up inside half an hour and playing with great skill, the O's looked all set for a win bonus but then they inexplicably fell back on defence and allowed Shrewsbury not only to fight back and equalise but to come within an ace of winning.

Manager Dick Graham's pre-match gamble of moving full-back Mick Jones to inside-left paid handsome dividends. Jones proved to be Orient's most dangerous forward and completed a good afternoon's work by scoring a fine goal. David Forsyth returned to right-back and Barry Fry replaced Terry Bradbury at inside-right.

Orient rocked Shrewsbury with a goal in eight minutes. From Slater's corner-kick the ball ran loose to Fry, whose hard, low cross was deflected into Holton's path by Dolby, and the centre-forward easily beat Boswell from six yards.

So near

An overhead kick by Holton, a Jones shot which scraped the bar and a first-time drive by Fry, which just whistled wide of an upright, were all efforts which could have gone in and given Orient a commanding first-half lead.

Shrewsbury right-winger Meredith tested Willis with one fierce drive, and then a scaring 20-yard shot by Brodie was only inches off the mark.

Orient increased their lead after 30 minutes when a perfect through pass from Allen found Jones. As Boswell advanced, Jones neatly slotted the ball past him into the corner of the net.

Five minutes later Brodie reduced the deficit, running on to Meredith's pass to crash the ball home from 20 yards. It was a great goal, and one which was to inspire Shrewsbury.

The second half was rather an anti-climax, but it saw Shrewsbury gradually seize the initiative. Orient's attacks now lacked sparkle and penetration, and their defence became edgy and uncertain.

An equaliser always looked likely, and it came when Willis failed to gather a cross from Wright. The ball ran loose for wing-half Brodie to level the score.

Orient: Willis, Forsyth, Howe, Wood, Went, Allen, Slater, Fry, Holton, Jones, Werge.

Shrewsbury: Boswell, Wright, Gregory, Brodie, Dolby, Wood, Meredith, Boardman, Manning, Clarke, Turner.

ANOTHER STEP TO SAFETY

Darlington 0, Orient 0

"THEIR attack didn't show anything to worry my ulcers. We gained a point comfortably". So said Orient manager Dick Graham after Saturday's game at Darlington.

That Orient achieved their aim of getting a draw and taking a step nearer the safety zone without a great deal of discomfort only made observers wonder why they didn't press harder for the maximum, especially after half-time with a strong wind and undoubted height advantage in their favour.

The Darlington attack had obviously run out of ideas and most of their will to score as they tried with a laboured persistence to force a way through Orient's tight defence.

The home backs Peverell and Keeble had looked suspiciously vulnerable in the air and nervous about their 18-year-old goalkeeper John Hope behind them. But Orient, despite sending the powerful Paul Went up front in the later stages to add to Cliff Holton's bulk and shrewd promptings, didn't seem to notice that they could profit and were not bothered as long as their own goal remained intact.

They always seemed assured of this. Ron Willis was in fine form and John Sneddon, after an uncertain start and slowness on the turn following his long

absence owing to injury, commanded the middle well. He was nobly backed up by Brian Wood, full-backs Bert Howe and Brian Whitehouse and Went when he wasn't linking up front.

Wood, in fact, was instrumental in snuffing out the Quakers main threat, Don Ratcliffe. As a result, the home team never looked dangerous apart from a goalmouth scramble after Willis had dropped a hard centre, and early in the second half when he made a fearless save at the feet of Conlon.

After that brief spell of all-out attacking, when the home team threw everything but adequate finishing at the Orient goal, the game gradually lapsed to a shapeless push and prod.

Orient: Willis, Howe, Whitehouse, Sneddon, Went, Wood, Slater, Allen, Holton, Werge, Metchick. Sub: Price.

POSH SIGN TWO

PETERBOROUGH last night signed Jimmy McLaughlin from Swansea and Dave Metchick from Leyton Orient after an emergency board meeting and a medical examination lasting more than two hours.

Manager Gordon Clark and the club directors also interviewed Swindon centre-forward Jim Lawton, but Clark said: "After signing McLaughlin and Metchick I have no more money

for other players. If one of them had not signed, we would have had Lawton."

McLaughlin, 25 has been capped 12 times by N. Ireland and he said last night: "Peterborough is my lucky ground. I scored a hat-trick for Shrewsbury there and I got two for Swansea last December."

Metchick, 23, was a youth international with Fulham before being transferred to Orient.

YOUNG PAUL ORIENT HERO

By REG GUTTERIDGE

Leyton Orient, hell-bent on Third Division survival, led Brighton at Brisbane Road when 17-year-old centre-half Paul Went added forward strength and scored.

But Orient conceded two give-away goals by half-time with Gould and Napier scoring within seven minutes.

In the third minute after the interval Went, switched to inside forward, became the hero by equalising.

Orient's sky-blue strip inspired some early high lobs that were lost in the wind, but thoughtful passing had Brighton on the run. Allen shot inches wide from an opportunist throw in by Metchick and the wing-half swerved a snap-shot across goal that scraped a post.

With Orient's forwards clicking, including converted attacker Mick Jones, Brighton panicked when Tranter kicked behind as keeper Burns was racing to clear.

Metchick flighted the corner well and Holton, with back to goal, smartly breast the ball for on-rushing WENT to score in eight minutes.

Brighton levelled in the 31st minute when Bradbury failed to stop a through pass and winger Wilkinson crossed for opposite winger, GOULD to crash home.

Bradbury boomed again when the bounce of the ball beat him and NAPIER scored Brighton's second, in-off a post.

HT: L. Orient 1 Brighton 2
Bradbury, intent on making amends, shot hard and Turner went down for Werge to pass to WENT who swerved and shot to equalise in the 48th.

Orient went ahead in the 62nd minute when HOLTON, side-footed home from Slater's cross, flicked on by Metchick.

L. Orient: Willis, Bradbury, Howe, Allen, Went, Wood, Slater, Werge, Holton, Jones, Metchick. Sub: Price.
Brighton: Burns, Magill, Baxter, Tompkins, Gail, Tranter, Wilkinson, Livesey, Napier, Turner, Gould. Sub: Whittington.

Mick Jones of Leyton Orient frantically kicks the ball off the goal-line from a Q.P.R. attack thus saving himself and his fellow defenders three shillings. See story below. (McLennan 1.)

PHEW! THAT SAVES THREE BOB!

CONSIDERED to be just about the most novel and original system of all among those in vogue among Football League clubs in the matter of voluntary fines paid by players is that which Leyton Orient have operated during the season. The arrangement has been for defenders to pay 3s. each for each goal conceded and forwards the same amount in matches in which they fail to score. The players have had a periodical party with the proceeds!

By Frankie Taylor

PETERBORO 0, L. ORIENT 2

ORIENT will soon leave the relegation danger zone if they continue with the hard work they showed in surprising injury-hit Peterborough.

Josh will say goodbye to their Cup hopes if they travel to meet giant-killers Bedford without a midfield force to equal injured skipper Frank Rankmore.

The Welsh international centre-half broke his collarbone against Walsall last week and, although Ron Cooper did a good stand-in job in that game, manager Gordon Clark switched him to his normal wing-half position yesterday. He decided to try Brian Wright in the middle.

The experiment failed. Peterborough lacked the midfield strength to cope with Orient's attacks.

Disallowed

Peterborough were also without their other half-back stalwart Harry Orr—on the injured list, too. Full-backs Johnson and Crawford had to face an Orient attack which was coming in with time to spare against little midfield resistance.

Orient's usually hesitant Dave Metchick was an all-powerful force. He placed passes pretty much where he liked, and was able to engineer attacks which brought a first-half goal from Slater and a second-half one by Wood.

Josh had romped into the attack, had a goal disallowed in the 4th minute, and then lost their hold on the game.

Orient's forwards and half-backs chopped and changed to share attack and defence duties. The attacks often looked disorganised, but they were too good for this Peterborough team.

PETERBOROUGH: Millington 7; Johnson 6; Gosper 6; Wright 6; Crawford 6; EDMONDY 5; Kirkham 5; Byrne 6; Watson 6; Fairbrother 7; Mason 7.
ORIENT: Willis 8; Jones 6; Went 6; Allen 6; Howe 5; Werge 7; Wood 7; Slater 8; Holton 6; Whitehouse 7.
*METCHICK 9.
Referee: J. E. Carr (Sheffield) 8.

