

# Dominant Orient let the points slip

Leyton Orient 1, Darlington 2, by Bernard Callaghan

THIS game could so easily have been the morale-booster badly needed by Orient. It should have been a points "gift" and a virtual execution of Darlington—surely the worst side to visit Brisbane-road this season. Goal chances came to Orient five times more regularly than to Darlington. They were squandered miserably.

Orient undeniably had a large slice of bad luck and they did find Darlington's goalkeeper in brilliant form, but it would be ill-considered judgment to blame this failure on misfortune.

Every forward was guilty of missing good goal possibilities which no team can afford to fritter away.

Manager Dick Graham experimented once again with a new-look team and his combination did look promising as they set about an apparent slaughter of the Durham side.

Bradbury, at centre half, was a midfield giant who anticipated well, cutting out danger and serving his forwards admirably. Jones and Went, back after injury, added strength and Peter Allen played in the senior side for the first time this season.

## Avalanche

In the space of 15 minutes, the Darlington goal escaped an avalanche of shots. Two rocketing free kicks by Cliff Holton were punched away waist-high by Moore and a long, low drive by Went was kicked off the goalline by a Darlington defender.

This effort by Went was still in the fans' minds when the ball was cracked upfield and popped into the Orient goal in an unexpected flash.

It was a move which caught the Orient defence as well as spectators napping. Sproates lobbed the ball to Ratcliffe, who shot past the helpless Willis.

But the score did not stem the Orient pressure and the Darlington goal took on a charmed life.

In the first minute of the second half Orient were level. Billy Carter started a midfield attack which resulted in the ball bouncing about in Darlington's goalmouth. Carter followed up to sidefoot the ball into the net over the ducking head of Cliff Holton.

Inexplicably, Orient became casual in approach to allow Darlington to come into the game really for the first time.

This easing up by Orient suited Darlington—particularly veteran Ray Yeoman, the former Middlesbrough half back—only too well.

In the 75th minute John Hellawell, the Darlington leader, took a pass from Yeoman 35 yards from the Orient goal. He ran past Bradbury and had all the time he needed to shoot Darlington into the lead.

Orient forwards finished the game bewildered, wondering, as did the crowd, how they had lost a match they had dominated for 90 minutes.

## MORE LIKE IT O's

Colchester 2, Leyton Orient 2.

IF Orient can produce this brand of football at Brisbane-road, the Club will soon rediscover its "lost" army of supporters.

In a thrill-a-minute encounter in a cup-tie atmosphere a partisan Colchester crowd saw Orient twice take the lead with determined, attacking football, (writes Bernard Callaghan).

"We had a team of triers tonight. I asked for 100 per cent effort and I got it from everyone plus a little extra," said manager Dick Graham afterwards.

But for a strange decision by the referee at a stage of the game when Orient led 2-1, the reward for this all-out endeavour could have been two points.

Bradbury—who had played a commanding midfield game—collected the ball 40 yards from the Colchester goal, three minutes before half-time. He sent in a Charlton-type shot which was still rising as it sizzled into the net with the Colchester keeper hopelessly beaten.

The referee, however, disallowed the goal, presumably adjudging that Sorrell—in an offside position—had interfered with play.

No single Orient player could be spotlighted for extra praise to his colleagues. All played magnificently and the victory should give the extra confidence they will undoubtedly need in their tough match with Queens Park Rangers tomorrow (Saturday).

Orient's first goal came in the 15th minute when Billy Carter bodied a deflected Sorrell shot into the net. The equaliser came seven minutes later, Stratton shooting home a ball only partially held by Willis.

In the 25th minute Sorrell scored after pouncing on a loose ball which Burke, the Colchester goalkeeper, could only pat down from a Mick Jones drive.

Colchester were back on terms in the 80th minute, Stratton scoring from a corner through a squad of Orient defenders.



(225) Busiest player at Brisbane-road was Darlington goalkeeper Tony Moore. Throughout the match he continually foiled Orient's forwards, being beaten only once. ABOVE: With the help of a defender Moore saves a Terry Price shot. Anxious onlooker is Orient leader Cliff Holton. BELOW: Moore foils Terry Price, Cliff Holton and Dave Forsyth by punching clear a dangerous cross.



Pictures by 'Guardian' photographer Archie McNeice (226)