

Troubled faces of Graham



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KEEPING FAITH

YET another burden is placed on the shoulders of Orient manager Dick Graham.

Arising out of the club's crisis appeal Graham suddenly finds an even greater responsibility—that of keeping faith with the fans.

"I'm simply a professional footballer," Graham often says. But this week he told *Sportscope* that he was now finding his position more than "just a job."

"I have a feeling of great responsibility," he said. "Sometimes I'm afraid people might expect too much from me. I can't perform miracles."

He says he is becoming increasingly aware of the faith people have in him.

Graham—often called one of soccer's toughest iron men—has been touched by some of the letters and donations he has received since Orient sent out their distress signal.

"This week I received 1s. 4½d. from a boy. I had another letter enclosing 7s. 6d., signed 'Two old pensioners from Hadley.' At the Fulham match on Monday, a chap handed me a pound. Another gave me a pound, saying it was all he had, and that he wished he could give more."

Even though Orient have won four points from the last six games, they still find themselves at the foot of the table. Other teams are also fighting well for further existence in the Third Division.

"This nearly always happens at this time of the season," explained Graham. "There is a tightening up of league places, and suddenly, instead of two or three teams in a fight to avoid relegation, half the league is involved."

"One thing is certain—we cannot afford to lose games. I am hoping that the good performances of the team in the last few games will give the players confidence and consistency."

"There is no half-way stage in the League at present. Teams are either fighting for promotion or fighting to avoid relegation."

"At this time of the year two or three successive wins could put a bottom team into a promotion place. But it's going to be a tough battle all the way."

A lot of the club's worries could be solved by a good FA Cup run.

Graham knows more than anyone that Lowestoft—Orient's visitors in the fifth round tomorrow (Saturday)—could be tough opposition. They

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are present champions of the Eastern Counties League and their record in the last two seasons is not far short of fantastic.

Last season Lowestoft scored 125 goals in 30 League matches, resulting in 49 points. Stars of the side are Mike Tooley, who scored 84 of the goals, and 19-year-old Nigel Cassidy, who collected 42.

This pattern of play has been continued this season and the club has 16 points from 10 games. Last Saturday they thrashed Ipswich Reserves 7-1.

Orient may include in their team O'Brien, who on Monday starts a 14-day suspension by the FA. The Association imposed the ban on November 16th. The penalty—which was accompanied by a £15 fine—was for an incident in the London Challenge Cup-tie against Millwall on October 24th, for which he was sent off.

Dick Le Flem was also suspended for 14 days by the FA for kicking a Millwall player in a Mid-week League game. His ban ends a week earlier than O'Brien's.



DICK LE FLEM experienced a remarkable change in his career as a story on this page reveals. (W.2.)

Rateable value

NO other player in the game has seen his value in the transfer market slump more swiftly and strikingly than outside-left Dick Le Flem. He was valued at £30,000 when he left Forest for Wolves in November, 1961; £15,000 when Middlesbrough signed him in February, 1965; £2,000 when he passed to Orient, and then a free-transfer rating when he quit the game last season.



ABOVE: England Schoolboys 1966-7, back row left to right: Mr. T. Saunders (trainer), G. Jones, D. Dangerfield, L. Cantello, M. Simmonds, G. Crudginton, R. Pitt, S. Howie, S. Whitworth, D. Rogers, Mr. E. T. King (manager). Front row left to right: L. Millerchip, A. Towers, D. Spencer, T. Taylor (Capt.), S. Perryman, W. Kenny, P. Cuff. (Prov. 1.)