

O's POLISH OFF POSH

Orient 3, Peterborough 0
By Vince Wright

IT is no coincidence that since Orient have been free from injuries there has been an amazing transformation in the performance of the team.

By patience and perseverance manager Dick Graham has got together a very good side and, having seen them trounce Peterborough on Saturday, I confidently predict that 1968 will be one of O's happiest years.

Watched by just about their biggest crowd of the season, Orient really gave their supporters something to cheer and no one was more impressed than Peterborough manager Norman Rigby who said that Orient were the best Third Division side he had seen this season.

Great goal

Orient's great display in the cloying mud made a mockery of their lowly league position, yet, for the first 20 minutes, their prospects of winning this game looked anything but bright. The players seemed to be suffering from a Christmas hangover, being painfully slow in moving to the ball and using it poorly.

However, a wonderful 20th minute goal by outside-left Owen Simpson changed the whole complexion of the match. Vic Halom received a pass from Mick Jones in midfield and set off on a fine individual run, beating three men on the way. His shot was deflected to Simpson who found the corner of the net with an accurate left-foot drive.

Orient were inspired and for the next 15 minutes they

peppered the Peterborough goal. Massey got the ball into the net again after Halom had headed on to the bar but referee Counsell disallowed the goal, although I did not see any infringement.

Peterborough came back briefly and Conny forced Goddard to a brilliant save but it was Orient who were now calling the tune.

A sustained spell of pressure in the second half brought them a second goal in the 63rd minute. Halom, having one of his best games for Orient, had a shot blocked and the ball ran to Simpson, who fired in a surprise drive from an acute angle. Millington knocked up the ball and Massey dashed in to score with a great header.

With their loyal fans roaring their encouragement Orient reached new heights and five minutes from the end Terry Mancini finished a good day's work by heading his third goal of the season, outjumping the Peterborough defence to Slater's skilfully flighted corner kick.

Orient: Goddard, Jones, Howe, Allen, Mancini, Wood, Slater, Harper, Massey, Halom, Simpson.

Peterborough: Millington, Noble, Cooper, Adams, Rankmore, Wright, Brace, Conny, Fairbrother, Hall, Thompson.



● Peterborough's Welsh international goalkeeper Tony Millington is caught off balance by Owen Simpson's great shot which brought Orient's first goal on Saturday. ★ (26)



● The goal that never was. Vic Halom soars above Millington to head on to the bar. . . . ★ (27)

ON TRIAL WITH CHARLTON



Orient apprentice, 17-year-old centre-half John Still has signed for Charlton on a month's trial. Still played in Orient's first team at inside forward against Torquay early in the season. ★ (36)



● The ball rebounds to centre-forward Roy Massey who scores with ease but the goal is disallowed. Pictures by Archie McNeice. ★ (28)

DEELEY SIGNS
GIL MERRICK, the former Birmingham City and England goalkeeper, who is manager of Bromsgrove Rovers, made his first signing of note since taking over the Worcester-shire club when he signed Norman Deeley from nearby Worcester City.

Deeley, the former Wolves and England winger, will provide some welcome experience to a Bromsgrove attack which has been lacking this kind of player for the past few seasons.

Deeley, a firm favourite when he played at Molineux, still lives in the Midlands despite a short and far from successful period in London with Leyton Orient.

The Bromsgrove manager decided to sign Deeley following a highly-successful trial against Aston Villa when the Worcester-shire side won 2-0.

David Payne is another Palace player very much in demand around the circuits. Mr. Head certainly has problems. Barry Dyson, the forward he signed when Tom White was injured is the man Ken Furphy hopes will add punch to the Watford attack. Dyson arrived at Victoria Road for £9,000.

NOT SO COCKY NOW, ORIENT

BOSTON 1, ORIENT 1

ORIENT missed the menace in this Boston side after taking an easy lead. They thought they had made victory certain.

But a tremendous fight back by Boston had Orient gasping—and grateful for the final whistle.

Orient's early over-confidence was boosted by a tragic mistake by Boston 'keeper Norman Oakley, he let a hopeful centre from Simpson slip through his hands into the net.

But Boston's sting was felt after the interval—when player-manager Don Donovan surged from out of his sweepers' shell.

It was from a Donovan pass that Brian Clifton broke clear. He tried a hard centre towards the in-running Parry, and Mancini's attempted clearance sailed into his own net.

Blame

But much of the blame rested with Goddard for his nervous habit of running out too far.

Orient panicked in the next half-hour. Suddenly Boston seemed the giants. And the desperation in Orient's tackling made it clear how near they were to losing a precious pay-day in the third round.

Probably their greater sense of urgency saved them in the end. They forced their way back into the match and the industrious Vic Halom and Brian Wood came close to snatching a winner in the final minutes.

BOSTON: Oakley 5; Lakin 7, *DONOVAN 8, Howells 7, Barrowcliffe 6; Preston 6, Parry 6, Robinson 6, Rayner 7, Thompson 6, Fall 7.

ORIENT: Goddard 5; Jones 6, Mancini 7, Wood 7, Howe 6; Allen 6, Harper 6, Simpson 6; Slater 6, Massey 5, *HALOM 6.

Referee: R. Harper (Sheffield) 0.

JOE HULMF