

Swindon fall to fighting Orient

Orient 1 Swindon 0



THE Swingers of Swindon were dragged down to waltz-time by Orient's determined fighters.

A battling defensive display kept out the Third Division stars who face Arsenal in the League Cup final next March.

Manager Danny Williams even brought on substitute Don Heath to replace Willie Penman in a bid to break through. But all the invention and class of Swindon's stars failed to impress Orient.

The last London Braves took a 12th-minute lead through Peter Allen and held on until the bitter end.

ALLEN scored when he collected a pass from Malcolm Slater and rained in a first-time shot which was deflected by centre half Frank Burrows.

Orient player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield was the master of midfield matters. His distribution was excellent.

Swindon's only real threat was Peter Noble. Young Orient goalkeeper Ray Goddard blocked a fierce drive from Noble and midway through the second half Noble's overhead kick from a corner shaved the bar.

Noble missed a good chance when Goddard was dribbling the ball to the edge of the penalty area for a big clearance.

He raced in to challenge as the ball skidded away, but Goddard reached it first.

CITY CARRY ON

Former Orient captain Sid Bishop was appointed player-manager of Guildford City last night after the struggling Southern League club decided to carry on—at least until the end of the season.

IT'S TIME COUNCIL HELPED ORIENT

Waltham Forest Council can forget about negotiating with Orient for the sale of their Leyton ground if they insist on the development price of about £200,000, but they cannot overlook the necessity of giving their tenants decent drainage, writes Harold Palmer.

Orient have spent so much, about £150,000 in fact, on improving the facilities at this ground, all of which passes into the council's ownership, and circumstances seem to call for the club being given some sympathetic consideration.

The cancellation of today's game with Shrewsbury because of the waterlogged state of the pitch is the fourth time their League programme has been hit in this way this season.

The game with Brighton on September 16 was abandoned at half-time, and the games with Northampton (October 12) and Stockport (December 21) were both postponed. This kind of thing is costing Orient money and could have unfortunate results in the overcrowding of fixtures later in the season.

Orient believe that the immediate pitch drainage is in

good working order and that the trouble is the feed back from the main sewerage.

This opinion is supported by the nature of the top two inches of the soil, which is like black mud and has an unpleasant smell.

An Orient official said today: "We are very worried about the pitch when there is continuous rain. Having to postpone matches is unfair to our supporters."

Orient are calling in specialists to have a look at the pitch tomorrow morning.

As far as the purchase of the ground is concerned, an area such as this scheduled for sports use, can have nothing like the "current market value" of £200,000, which has been mentioned.

Watford checked

Watford 0, Orient 0

THE shadow of next Saturday's FA Cup clash at Old Trafford hung heavily over Watford.

It enabled Orient, straining to get out of the relegation zone, to check the championship hopes of the League leaders who had won their previous six League and Cup games.

Top marks to an Orient defence admirably marshalled by former Watford man, stubborn centre half Terry Mancini.

When Watford stepped up the tempo in a second half effort to translate authority into goals, Orient resistance stiffened.

The drab clash never rose

By PETER KINLAN

about mediocrity and Watford could not find their penetration after being bogged down in the cloying mud.

Watford goalkeeper Mike Walker was not called on for a single second half shot but at least the Orient defenders earned distinction.

Neither side appeared to have a decisive plan during the tepid opening half, though Orient wingers Malcolm Slater and Jim Bloomfield tested Watford during a four-minute pressure period which produced four corners.

Most of the Watford danger stemmed from restless Barry Endean who twice had goalkeeper Ray Goddard diving across the goalmouth for spectacular saves.

Watford missed a thirty-five minute scoring chance created by a Dixie Hale free kick. Winger Brian Owen's close-range nod clipped the bar.

The dull second half was relieved by two bright flashes from Watford's Rodney Green who replaced Hale in the sixty-fifth minute. He vollied inches wide from twenty yards and, in a vain last minute effort, headed against the bar.

Crowd rating: 85

Dyson saves Orient

Watford 0 Orient 0

ORIENT'S former Watford striker Barry Dyson prevented what would have been a gross miscarriage of justice in the dying minutes of this boring encounter at Vicarage Road.

Dyson cleared a header from Watford's John Williams off his own goal-line to ensure the points were shared. And it was as well. For, although Orient may not have deserved victory, they didn't deserve to lose.

Dyson—who fell back into the back four when full-back Mike Jones went off injured—and another former Watford player, Tony Mancini, were Orient's defence heroes.

BATTLING O's HOLD LEADERS

WATFORD 0, ORIENT 0

JIMMY BLOOMFIELD, a great advocate of attacking football, threw his principles overboard on Saturday—and the result was a point that even the most avid Orient supporter could scarcely have hoped for.

With Watford top of the table—and on top of the world—things looked bleak for struggling Orient. But Bloomfield had other ideas.

He has watched Watford several times recently, clearly made a detailed study and laid plans accordingly.

Orient laid the emphasis on a tight defence and pinned their hopes on pinching a goal in a sudden breakaway.

Bloomfield pulled himself back into the middle three, with Dave Harper and Peter Allen, ready to pick up anyone coming through. It worked well and with 'Henry' Mancini and company in determined mood at the back Watford—despite pressing for long spells—found chances very hard to come by.

Nothing had been left to chance and even when midfield man Dixie Hale was replaced by substitute Rodney Green after 63 minutes Orient were not caught unprepared.

Although the tactics were completely foreign to Orient they carried them out with commendable discipline. In one or two recent matches they have expected to win a casual, almost indifferent, attitude has been displayed by certain players. This time there was nothing but grim determination.

All came through with flying colours—but none did better than the mighty Mancini, playing against his previous club. I can only assume that Watford manager Ken Furphy sets his standards very high if he can afford to release a player like Mancini.

He curbed the menace of bright boy Barry Endean—surely the find of the season—and Terry Garbett and when Green joined the battle he got the same treatment.

When that Orient defence was penetrated Ray Goddard proved a reliable keeper.

The commanding Goddard was invariably out to challenge for the high balls—and he usually got them. Twice he saved well from Endean and only on two occasions was he in trouble.

In the first half a header from Owen clipped the top of the bar and in the final seconds a back header from Dennis Rofe, following Keeth Eddy's free-kick, bounced back off the bar.

Watford's pressure and a sticky surface put paid to any hopes Orient had of grabbing a goal in their breaks. New boy Barry Dyson—also facing his former club—had little to do but showed rare courage.

Every time he got the ball he was jumped on by two or three defenders and had no chance of breaking through. This did not stop him trying and he was never afraid to take on a couple of players.

The only time Orient really extended Watford keeper Mike Walker was midway through the

BY JACK STEGGLES

first half when a snap back header from Bloomfield had Walker scrambling to turn it over the bar.

Watford fans fumed as time ticked by and the home side made no impression on the Orient defence.

Being reasonably successful in recent years they probably refused to recognise that desperate measures call for desperate remedies.

Orient's league position dictated their policy. I hope to see them play this way again when the occasion demands. If they do their Third Division place will be safe.

Watford: Walker, Welbourne, Williams, Eddy, Garvey, Wallis, Scullion, Hale, Garbett, Endean, Owen. Sub: Green.

Orient: Goddard 9, Jones 7, Rofe 8, Harper 2, MANCINI 9, Taylor 8, Slater 7, Bullock 6, Allen 7, Dyson 6, Bloomfield 6.

- Division 1
Keillers Sp. 2, Canning Town 2
- Division 2
Swan-Utd 5, Bourne Rovers 0
- MANOR PARK LEAGUE
West Essex Inter League Cup
Manor Park and District League 2
Walton and District League 1
Premier Division
Mooneys Sports 4, United 4
- Intermediate Division
JGrove (Bow) 2, Keillers Sports 2
Garton Sports Res. 1, Westrow 1, Griffon 3
Lessa West Ham 1, Carlyle Utd. 2
- First Division
Ipretoia 6, Bromley Gas 3
Lea Villa 1, St. Francis 6
Silverton 1, Nottingham Utd. 1
- Second Division
Lessa Brunswick 1, O.S. West- hamians 1
- Third Division
(Aldersbrook House 4, Alum- inium Foils 2