

Mancini swoops —Bournemouth sink in the mud

Orient 1, Bournemouth 0

Bournemouth's Third Division promotion chances were virtually sunk in the puddles and mud at Brisbane-road last night when they fell to a Terry Mancini goal on the stroke of half-time.

Only top-class displays by Bournemouth goalkeeper Roger Jones and centre half David Stocks had kept out Orient until then as Terry Parmenter sent across a string of dangerous centres.

But in the forty-fourth minute a Malcolm Slater corner was only half-cleared to Barry Dyson who headed the ball back into the goalmouth for Mancini to turn it into the net for Orient's winner.

Bournemouth were lucky not to concede a second goal in the second half when Dyson ran clear from the half-way line, took the ball round keeper Jones outside the penalty area and then stubbed his shot.

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BULLOCK GIVES O's A BOOST

Orient 2, Stockport County 0

By VINCE WRIGHT

THEY used to call Chelsea the Old Unpredictables but I'm giving the name to Orient after watching them trounce highly rated Stockport on Wednesday.

Orient really are a puzzle. They flounder against the mediocre sides but come up trumps when they take on the cream of the Third Division. Wednesday night's win over Stockport, three points out of four from League leaders Watford and a great victory against League Cup winners Swindon illustrate the point.

Striker Mike Bullock will look back on this night with particular pleasure. He has not had the best of luck since joining the London club from Oxford for £8,000 in October but I sense that at last he has the crowd on his side.

His two precious goals in the 71st and 81st minutes put an attractive but formidable Stockport team out for the count.

Bullock broke the tense deadlock late in the second half following a sustained spell of Orient pressure. A long punt from Bert Howe seemed to carry no danger for the Stockport defence but Bullock ran intelligently into a gap and, as goalkeeper Lloyd advanced, clipped the ball over him and into the net.

Ten minutes later Orient scored again from a similar situation and once more Bullock was the happy marksman.

A precise pass by Peter Allen found Bullock all alone on the edge of the penalty

area. The Stockport defenders stopped, thinking he was off-side, but the referee and linesman gave no such indication and Bullock beat Lloyd with a superb hook shot which sailed crisply into the net.

Orient were the underdogs before the kick-off. Terry Parmenter failed a fitness test on a damaged thigh and was replaced by Roy Massey, having his first outing since December 9.

Tommy Taylor was on duty with the England Youth side in Belgium so Peter Allen dropped back and player manager Jimmy Bloomfield came into the forward line. Both Massey and Bloomfield played with spirit and distinction, thus making sure that the absentees were not missed.

If O's had shown a little more steadiness in front of goal Stockport's defence would have been even more embarrassed. However, both Bullock and Dyson wantonly blazed over the bar with only the goalkeeper to beat while Massey blotted his copybook by wasting three clear-cut opportunities.

Orient: Goddard, Howe, Rofe, Harper, Mancini, Allen, Slater, Bullock, Bloomfield, Dyson, Massey.

Stockport County: Lloyd, Haydock, Harley, Goodwin, Milner, Campbell, Young, Atkins, Kinsella, Harley, Price.

Bloomfield rejects Reading offer

Orient's player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield has pledged his loyalty to the club by rejecting an opportunity to manage Reading at twice his present salary.

Reading have been without a manager since the departure of Roy Bentley six weeks ago and their chairman Mr Frank Waller offered Bloomfield the job last week. Bloomfield talked the matter over with chairman Mr Arthur Page and then decided to stay with Orient.

"I could have moved but I want to achieve something at Orient," he said. "I feel this club has a great potential and I don't want to leave just when I am getting my teeth into the job."

Bloomfield took charge of Orient a year ago and since his arrival gates have increased and results have improved. Mr Page praised Bloomfield when he said "This is the spirit we want here. Jimmy is doing a grand job and we are with him all the way."

Orient's plan of playing most of their home matches on Friday nights next season might be dashed. The Football League is determined to force clubs into regular Saturday play as they feel this is only fair to the pools promoters who pay so well for the use of the fixtures.

Orient have offered a trial to 21-year-old inside-forward Alan Doyle. He was recommended by Chelsea who could not offer him a place on their staff. Doyle has previously been with Oxford United and Luton.

Nineteen-year-old Ron Wigg, released on a free transfer in 1967 by former Orient boss Dick Graham, has scored three times in three appearances for First Division Ipswich. Brighton and Barnsley are interested in Orient's transfer listed outside-right Malcolm Slater.



Southport's penalty area resembled Regent Street in rush-hour in the second half of Saturday's match at Brisbane Road. Even centre-forward Andrews came back to help out his overworked defence and he is seen here heading the ball to safety. Other players are goalkeeper Reeves and wing-halves Peat (left) and Clarke. Picture by Archie McNeice. ★(780)

JOLT FOR ORIENT

Orient 0, Southport 2 By Vince Wright

SOUTHPORT did not win this match. It was presented to them. Orient's humiliating defeat by their Lancashire rivals was an unwanted but not entirely unexpected reverse. Consistency is one of the hallmarks of a good team and one has only to look at Orient's playing record this season to realise that they are the most inconsistent side in the Third Division.

Practically every victory, every encouraging sign, is followed by an unwelcome defeat.

Orient showed not the slightest indication of winning this forgettable game and the crowd were streaming away from the ground long before the finish. The 90 minutes on Saturday were wretched fare for supporters who expected something better after O's fine displays against Mansfield and Bournemouth.

An interval deficit of two goals meant that Orient had to produce something very special to pull the game out of the bag and they never looked equal to the task.

The players I felt sorry for were Mike Bullock and Dave Harper. Bullock, polished and professional, constantly out-leaped Southport's tall defenders but he was thinking at least two moves ahead of

his colleagues and his deft flicks and deflections went unrewarded. Harper ran himself dizzy in an attempt to inject some urgency into Orient's lifeless forward line but all to no avail.

The writing was on the wall even before inside-left Alex Russell put Southport in front in the 24th minute. A shallow centre from outside-right Shaw reached Russell who rocketed a 25-yard shot through a cluster of Orient players. Goddard was unsuspected and had little chance of saving.

The visitors second goal should certainly have been avoided. Goddard came too far off his line to collect a wickedly swerving 40-yard free-kick by right-half Peat and was left stranded as the ball, helped by a strong wind, sailed into the roof of the net.

Shattered

Proof that Orient's confidence had been totally shattered was in evidence during the final 45 minutes when

Southport's goalkeeper, the bearded Brian Reeves, was tested only once. Dyson was in an unresponsive mood and wingers Slater and Parmenter did nothing to suggest that they could save the day.

Mick Jones came on for Bert Howe in a tactical substitution a quarter of an hour from the end but it was asking too much for one man to salvage anything from this wreckage.

To add to Orient's misery Dennis Rofe was carried off the field, having bruised his Achilles tendon in a touch-line clash with Southport centre-forward George Andrews. As Rofe, in considerable pain, disappeared down the tunnel Orient's faint hopes of saving the match went with him.

Orient: Goddard, Howe, Rofe, Harper, Mancini, Taylor, Slater, Bullock, Allen, Dyson, Parmenter, Sub: Jones.

Southport: Reeves, Pearson, Curven, Peat, M. Russell, Clarke, Shaw, Field, Andrews, A. Russell, Redrobe.

BULLOCK ON FORM

Orient 2 Stockport 0

★ **MICKEY BULLOCK**, Orient's out-of-luck striker, scored twice and began to justify his £10,000 signing from Oxford last October. He had previously scored only three goals in 24 games.

Even last night he missed three simple chances, but seconds after one glaring error, he spun on to Bert Howe's pass and lobbed the ball past Brian Lloyd to give Orient a 71st minute lead.

Ten minutes later Bullock again bamboozled Lloyd with a dipping, 25-yard drive. Orient had plenty of other chances to take charge, but Roy Massey and Barry Dyson were guilty of slack finishing.

Orient's defence, however, rarely put a foot wrong. Centre half Terry Mancini, despite a nasty gash from a collision with Stockport's Bill Atkins, played a valiant game.

Stockport's promotion hopes, dim before this match, now seem extremely doubtful. Their defence, unlike Orient's, was never able to contain the Orient forwards.