

LUTON ANGER BLOOMFIELD —AND FANS

By Pat Collins
ORIENT 0, LUTON 0

ORIENT'S best home League crowd for more than two years will not remember Luton as the most popular team to visit Brisbane Road, this or any other season.

Allan Brown's side, so aggressive at home, set off for a draw as soon as the ball was touched. At times they had only Lewis in attack, occasionally supported by Sheffield.

For the rest it was grim defence with an offside trap that caught Orient time and time again, infuriating the crowd into prolonged jeering and slow handclapping.

"We came for a point and we got it," said Brown. "We had to make changes, so we had to play it tight."

Orient player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield said: "I can't remember a team playing the offside game so much. This spoils any chance of entertainment."

Players had few chances of making progress amid a profusion of free-kicks, with Luton the biggest offenders.

It was needless, niggling all the way, but referee McCabe kept it under control.

We saw a few flashes of Rioch—scouts from Forest, Coventry, Spurs and Villa were present although he has just signed a two-year contract—including one drive just off target.

ORIENT: Goddard 6; Jones 5, Mancini 6, *TAYLOR 7, Howe 5; Harper 6, Allen (P.) 7; Slater 6, Massey (inj.) 5, Halom 6, Brabrook 5. Sub.: Bloomfield 6.

LUTON: Read 6; Dougan 6, Mough 6, *MOORE 7, Jardine 6; Allen 5, Allen (K.) 6, Rioch 6, French (inj.) 5; Lewis 5, Sheffield 5. Sub.: McDerment.

Referee: G. McCabe (Sheffield) 5.

BRABROOK DOUBTFUL FOR VITAL CUP-TIE

ORIENT 3, OLDHAM 0

PETER BRABROOK, Orient's former England forward, is doubtful for Tuesday's League Cup Third Round tie against Crystal Palace.

Brabrook went off after 59 minutes of this dreary match against Oldham.

Said player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield: "Peter jarred a muscle in his right leg. He will have treatment every day, but we will not know until a few hours before the Palace match whether he will be fit."

It's tough on Orient, tough on Brabrook, who did try to instil a bit of life into the game until he stubbed his foot.

Halom, target of several First Division clubs, had a quiet game, but gave Orient the lead when he scored from a low cross from Massey.

Slater, Orient's best forward, got their second, although his shot went in off Best's legs.

But Orient were lucky with the third. Allen shot, Best had it covered—but the wind caught the ball and dipped it down into the net.

ORIENT: Goddard 6; Jones 6, Mancini 6, Taylor 6, Howe 6; Allen 6, Bloomfield 6; *SLATER 7, Halom 6, Massey 5, Brabrook (inj.) 6. Subst.: Harper 5.

OLDHAM: Best 6; Doyle 5. *HUNTER 7, Lawson 5, Weed 4; Frizzell 4, Blair (withdrawn) 5; Siers 6, Bebbington 6, Joyce 4, Chapman 5. Sub.: Philpott 6.

Referee: P. Walters (Bridgewater) 6.
SAM BARTRAM

PUNCHLESS O's

Orient 0
Tranmere Rovers 0

BY
JACK STEGGLES

WHEN Jimmy Bloomfield took over the managerial reins at Orient he vowed that attacking football would be the policy. Jim has kept his word and made O's into one of the most entertaining sides in the third division.

But is it worth it? This question must be uppermost in Bloomfield's mind as he ponders Monday's disappointing result—the second time in 48 hours Orient had been held to a goalless draw on their own manor.

The word seems to have spread about Orient's enterprise and teams are now coming to Brisbane Road simply to play for a point.

Tranmere packed eight and nine men back in defence in a bid to keep the Orient at bay.

But they were penetrated enough to have been heavily beaten and O's have only themselves to blame for failing to pick up the extra point that would have whisked them up to third place in the table.

O's best attacker on a night when they had 90 per cent of the play was skipper Terry Mancini—whose devastating headwork caused all sorts of trouble to Tranmere.

One header from a Slater corner was on its way when it struck Vic Halom, and another punched downwards powerfully, rebounded from the ground with

such force it bounced high over the bar.

Sitting watching Orient's efforts fizzle out for want of a striker were injured forwards Roy Massey and Peter Brabrook—two men who could have turned this game O's way.

Their absence threw a great burden on the willing shoulders of Vic Halom, who was forced to go it alone for most of the game.

Bloomfield adopted a more advanced role than usual and midfield men Dave Harper and Peter Allen—who had a brilliant game—did their best to get forward and add weight to the attack.

It seemed that sheer pressure would bring a goal as the game wore on. But overworked keeper Jimmy Cumbs kept his goal intact.

With ten minutes remaining, outplayed Tranmere had the best chance of the game when Bert Howe lost the ball to John Rowland inside the area. But Howe dashed back to clear Rowland's shot off the line.

Orient: Goddard 7; Jones 7, Howe 7, Harper 7, Mancini 8, Taylor 8, Slater 7, ALLEN 9, Bloomfield 6 Halom 7, Key 6.

Tranmere: Cumbs; Pointon, Robertson, King, Smith, Casey, Rowand, Pritchard, Yardley, Sinclair McNamee.

Washout, but Orient fans stay put

Orient 1 Brighton 1
(abandoned after 45 minutes)

★ A FURIOUS crowd of 5,000 demanded their money back and refused to leave the ground after this match was abandoned at half time last night.

Referee Ray Johnson, of Lowestoft, who called the game off, said: "We could not go on. The linesmen and I could not see the markings. We were ankle-deep in mud and rain."

The Brisbane Road demonstration began after the normal interval of 10 minutes.

Orient's loudspeaker system broke down at the crucial moment. The crowd were not aware that the game had been stopped.

They booed Orient chairman Arthur Page when he appeared again in the directors' box trying to explain the abandonment.

A police officer tried to use a hand megaphone, but he was shouted down too. Fans on the terraces pelleted lighted cigarettes, coins, orange peel and programmes on to the pitch, and they sang "We Shall Not Be Moved."

CUT UP

It took three-quarters of an hour to clear the ground, and irate supporters still stood outside the club's offices shouting for the referee and calling for their money to be refunded.

The pitch had been badly cut up and there were stretches which looked like a paddfield as rain poured down in the first half.

In this time both Orient and Brighton produced an amazing standard of football. After 9 minutes Orient winger Malcolm Slater met Peter Brabrook's cross for a neat goal.

And after 39 minutes Brighton equalised with a well executed goal. The move went from Kic Napier to Howard Wilkinson before Nobby Lawton finished it from 15 yards.

FANS RAGE AS ORIENT GAME IS WASHED OUT

Orient 1, Brighton 1 (Abandoned at half-time)

THERE WAS uproar last night when referee Ray Johnson (Lowestoft) abandoned Orient's match against Brighton at half-time.

Torrential rain which turned the pitch into a quagmire stopped at half-time, but referee Johnson said: "I had to abandon play because conditions were getting so bad that my linesmen and I could not see the pitch markings."

Officials tried to announce the referee's decision to the 5,000 crowd—many of them soaked by the rain—but the loudspeakers stayed silent because of water in the wiring.

Fans chanted "We want

our money back," and it took fifteen minutes of jeering and catcalling before the stands began to empty.

Hundreds of youngsters demonstrated in front of the stand and shouted down Orient chairman Arthur Page as he tried to explain the reason for the abandonment. Extra police were called to clear them away.

Orient player manager Jimmy Bloomfield said later: "Parts of the pitch are possibly dangerous. It is the referee's decision not ours."

Malcolm Slater scored for Orient after ten minutes. Nobby Lawton equalised six minutes before half-time.



RIGHT—at Orient's Brisbane Road ground it was Tommy Taylor the wing-half who is already a first team regular becoming a full professional.

He is pictured with his father Reg Taylor and Orient manager Jimmy Bloomfield.

