

Orit playing, boss!

ORIENT WANT BLOOMFIELD (HE'S THE GREATEST) TO CONCENTRATE ON JUST BEING MANAGER

Orient hope to persuade player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield to quit playing at the end of the season so he can devote all his time and energy to full-time management. And the ambitious Third Division club are prepared to tear up 34-year-old Bloomfield's two-year contract and offer him another strictly on his own terms.

Bullock's goal cure

Orient centre-forward Mike Bullock moved home to Ilford, Essex, this week hoping the switch from Oxford will end his goal famine.

Bullock, £9,000 buy from Oxford United last month, has failed to score in his first seven games for Orient.

"Life should be much easier now that I have cut out my daily travels to and from Oxford," says Bullock.

Arthur Page, 56-year-old Orient chairman and Epping business tycoon who has successfully guided Orient through a financial crisis over the past two years, is the man behind this move.

His reasons: "The way Jimmy has overcome problems

'I PLAY ON—' BLOOMFIELD

ORIENT PLAYER-MANAGER JIMMY BLOOMFIELD THIS WEEK SCOTCHED RUMOURS THAT HE IS TO RETIRE.

Bloomfield, 35 in February, said: "There has been a lot of talk about me retiring in the near future. This is not true. I have no intention of hanging up my boots and will play at least until the end of the season.

"I have thought of leaving myself out of the side on occasions—but that is something entirely different from retirement."

★ ★ ★

Dave Harper and Terry Mancini have recovered from injuries sustained last week and will be fit for tomorrow's match at Plymouth Argyle.

Harper finished limping against Bristol Rovers, with a recurrence of an ankle injury, and Mancini had heavy strapping on a knee. But both responded to treatment. Allen, who reported in for training yesterday with a cold.

Orient's successful Colts side are at home to Cambridge United in the second round of the F.A. Youth Cup, on Monday (7.30).

The two postponed Third Division matches against Northampton Town will be played at Brisbane Road on December 9. Two days earlier O's entertain Peterborough United in a friendly.

Orient failed to come to terms with Luton Town over the signing of winger Ray Whitaker. Orient wanted to borrow the player in order to have a good look at him before paying out a fee.

Luton would not agree and Whitaker went back after spending three days at Brisbane Road. Orient may now turn to Fulham's Barry Salgame—whose name was linked with them during the Vic Halom negotiations.

Mancini shows class

ORIENT 2, BRISTOL ROVERS 1

SOUTHEND manager Ernie Shepherd took a grandstand seat for Saturday's game at Brisbane Road. He has a centre-half high on his wanted list and if Terry Mancini was the man under review Shepherd must have been delighted with what he saw.

BY JACK STEGGLES

Mancini was a mighty mood. He bolstered O's defence in his usual manner and headed a great goal to wipe out Rovers' shock seventh minute lead goal.

But whether a bid would be worth Shepherd's while is debatable. Mancini's value to Orient is inestimable and it is doubtful whether any club in the lower divisions would have the money to buy him.

One third division club have placed an £85,000 valuation on their centre-half—and he is now in Mancini's class. So what does that make Terry worth?

For my money Terry is the best pivot in the division and Orient would not even think of letting him go.

Orient's overall display emphasised that they are on their way back. Their lack now is to convince the fans that a trip to Brisbane Road is still worthwhile.

Following the midweek cup defeat the gate failed to under 3,500—an alarming figure and it appears fans think that now they are out of the cup and out of the running for league honours, the rest of the season holds little interest.

But if they produce their early season form and the results start going the right way again, Orient can expect to at least double Saturday's disappointing figure.

Biggest pre-match talking point centred round the omission of Roy Massey—considered a shock following his great display at Gillingham in midweek. Manager Jimmy Bloomfield recalled Roger Cross—ineligible for the FA Cup—and made Massey substitute.

Massey looked set to step into the fray when Mancini sustained a second half injury—but he recovered and Roy replaced his track suit.

Well rehearsed moves brought both Orient's goals. Bloomfield laying one on and scoring the other.

After 41 minutes Jim clipped a precise free-kick into the area and MANCINI jumped for joy as his header left Larry Taylor helpless.

The winner arrived in the 51st minute when BLOOMFIELD, on the near post, thumped in a header from Mal Slater's corner. Taylor could only help it on its way.

Orient were generally in command, working hard for their victory.

But they suffered a shock in the seventh minute, when Rovers first attack produced a goal.

A probing ball from Wayne Jones found Graydon and his harmless cross eluded Ray Goddard, leaving MABBUTT a simple scoring task.

Orient: Goddard 5, Jones 7, Role 8, Harper 7, MANCINI 9, Taylor 7, Slater 7, Cross 6, Bullock 5, Allen 7, Bloomfield 7.

Rovers: Taylor L., Parsons, Stanton, Taylor S., Lloyd, Potts, Graydon, Jones R., Mabbutt, Jones W., Jarman (Sub. Godstone.)



● Bloomfield

since his arrival last March has impressed several other clubs.

"Now I am to keep him at Orient for as long as I am associated with them. And if any other club dares to come along for him, I shall promptly show them the door."

Bloomfield has proved a shrewd operator in the transfer market as well as a top class organiser and Orient have purchased a £10,000 home for him at Epping.

Bloomfield's switch from his Ascot, Surrey, home just before Christmas, will cut down his daily travelling time.

This is all part of Page's policy to boost a homely setup at Leyton Stadium—not one since Bloomfield took over.

Stressed Page: "As far as I am concerned Jimmy is the man who can take Orient back to Division One. I'm backing him all the way."

Bailey stars in reserves draw

LONDON MIDWEEK LEAGUE

Orient Res. 2, Charlton Res. 2
Orient's youngsters performed well against an experienced Charlton side at Brisbane Road on Wednesday and with any luck could have won the game.

Refusing to be overawed by the calibre of Charlton players such as Jack Barkett, Ray Treacy, Roy Cheetham, John Kiers and John Sienson, Orient got on with the job in hand, scoring through Phil MANNING and ROY MASSEY.

Prominent in the Orient side were Graham Archell and Bill Bailey. Switched from full-back to centre-half in an emergency, Bailey had a fine game.

Orient: Bastell, Howe, Albert Coventry, Bailey, Cook, Archell, Massey, Fairbrother, Brisley, Manning.

ORIENT SHOCK AS ALLEN GOES OFF

Orient 0 Northampton 0

★ TWICE in October Orient's Third Division home game against Northampton was washed out. When at last it was completed last night, Orient suffered more shocks.

THE CROWD of 3,240 was the lowest at Leyton since 2,266 saw them play Middlesbrough in the Second Division in April 1966.

AND JUST before half-time Orient lost their No. 9, Peter

Allen, who tore ligaments in his left ankle.

Player-manager Jimmy Bloomfield was back in action after injury but Orient scarcely looked like breaking down Northampton's powerful defence.

When they did break through, Keeper Gordon Morrison foiled them with sharp reflexes and safe handling.

John Fairbrother and Bob Halton forced good half saves from Orient Keeper Ray Goddard, but in the second half the standard dropped and the frozen fans gave up hope of seeing a goal.

Orient sign up Barry Dyson

Orient last night signed Watford's 26-year-old forward Barry Dyson for £3,000 and sent an official on the midnight train to Preston with the transfer form.

Manager Jimmy Bloomfield said: "If we can get the forms back tomorrow he will play on Boxing Day against Swindon."

● Orient have signed former Crystal Palace marksmen Barry Dyson from Watford for £5,000 and include him in their home game against Swindon on Boxing Day.

ORIENT SETBACK FOR SWINDON

Orient 1, Swindon 0

Orient mastered the Brisbane-road mud and dimmed Swindon's hopes of adding promotion to their League Cup prestige.

The goal that mattered came in the 27th minute when Peter Allen's one-to-one drive bounced off a defender into the net.

A lucky goal? Maybe, but nothing Orient were impressive in knocking out some of the Swindon glitter.

For Swindon, Don Rogers was outstanding in his ball control and offence, but Orient's Terry Mancini kept a firm grip down the middle.