

# ORIENT GO OVER THE WALL

By Peter Smith

**ORIENT 2 BRISTOL RVS. 1**  
BRISTOL ROVERS have built their defence around the six-foot barricade of Stuart Taylor and Larry Lloyd.

It should have given them mastery in the air in the penalty area, but Orient snaked victory with two headers. They were fagged over Rovers.

While Taylor and Lloyd were making strikers Bullock and Cross. Orient twice sneaked up on the blind side.

Just before half-time Mancini slipped behind Rovers' defence pair to nod in a delicately placed Bloomfield free-kick.

Just after half-time it was Bloomfield's turn. With the "big boys" by the far post, Bloomfield stood by the near post to glance in a Slater corner.

Until those goals Rovers had first away win of the season. They looked more dangerous in attacks. Their forwards ran well into the gaps with Mabbitt feeding well on Bobby Jones's fine service.

They snatched an early lead in their defence rail when they swished from defence to attack with three passes. Mabbitt scored after Goddard had failed to cut off a Graydon cross.

Graydon missed a sitter soon after, with Goddard floundering in the mud, and just after Orient's second goal Mabbitt fired against an upright with Goddard again on the ground.

But once Orient had snatched back the lead, Rovers looked a beaten team.

Orient might have had two in the first half and ten in the second. Orient: Goddard 8, Jones 7, Mancini 3, Taylor (1), 4, "Babe" 1, Mabbitt 7, Allen 3, Slater 7, Bullock 4, Cross 6, Bloomfield 7.

Bristol: Taylor (1), 7; Parsons 6, Taylor (1), 7; Lloyd 6, Stanton (1), 3; Mabbitt 6, Jones (1), 6, Jones (1), 7; Graydon 6, Mabbitt 7, Jarman 6, Sub. 6, Gardner.

Referee: D. Wallace (Widened) 8.

# BLOOMFIELD IS ORIENT GOAL ACE

Orient 2 Bristol R 1

ORIENT SHOOK off the effects of giving away a goal in the 7th minute and were well on top for most of the match.

They put all they had into attack and gave Larry Taylor work to see through. Plenty of them had him at full stretch even in the opening minutes, when he saved a header from Roger Cross at the base of a post.

When Rovers on their first venture into the home penalty area, took the lead. From mid-field Wayne Jones sent a fine Bristol goal-keeper Ray Goddard low. No danger was apparent until Jimmy Bloomfield unaccountably set the ball run across to Ray Mabbitt, who exploited the ease of chances.

Orient's persistence earned an equaliser in the 41st minute. Day-manager Jimmy Bloomfield floated a perfect free kick and Terry Mancini timed his header well to beat Taylor.

Just 10 minutes after the interval with a great free-kick, Slater's skillful corner was glanced in by Bloomfield.

Orient recovered from the shock of conceding an early goal to draw level before half-time against Bristol Rovers today. Rovers goal had come after only seven minutes.

Inside right Wayne Jones raced up the right wing and his low cross skidded out of goal-keeper Goddard's reach. Centre forward MABBITT dragged the ball back from the goal line and into the empty net.

Orient hit back but full-back Parsons was in position to head over a Bloomfield lofted centre, with two Orient forwards waiting.

Rovers missed a golden chance to increase their lead when Goddard parried a shot from Jarman and out-right Graydon missed the ball in front of an open goal.

Orient equalised after 41 minutes with a picture goal. Bloomfield flighted a 30-yard free-kick into the penalty area and centre-half MANCINI flicked his header well into the net.

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A great chance goes begging as Orient's Roy Massey (right) mis-kicks in front of an open goal.

# CROSS ENDS GOAL WAIT

(ORIENT 1, WATFORD 1)

ORIENT'S ROGER CROSS, on loan from neighbours West Ham, stepped on to the Brisbane Road turf after the interval on Saturday, and within three minutes proved why he had earned such a reputation as a goal-snatcher.

That was the time it took Cross to pierce Orient's Watford defence and end a 45-minute goal famine for the 25-year-old Orient fans. Cross had been bought on after the break to end the first half agony of luckless Roy Massey.

The goal which endeared Cross to the crowd? Slater took a corner on the right. Watford keeper Mike Walker dropped the ball and from Jimmy Bloomfield's pass CROSS was on hand to crack the ball home.

Orient's first half frustration was over. With that first win at Reading tucked confidently under their belts they had the edge over promotion-conscious Watford but couldn't find the net again.

Bloomfield must have wished he had included the tall, 19-year-old Cross right from the start. Had he done so Orient could have seen up their fifth win of the season before the interval.

But after that goal the well-dressed Orient side apparently decided that one goal was enough and that their competent defence was equal to anything that Watford could offer.

**BIG MISTAKE**  
And that was their big mistake. A mistake that Watford,

beating the best away record in the Third Division, were quick to punish.

BY TERRY SMITH

From that moment Watford took the initiative and it says much for the Orient defence, considerably lighter than in recent games, that it conceded only one in the 84th minute.

The Watford leveler also came from a corner. The Orient defence for once was caught in two minds and Watford right-half Keith EDDY launched himself forward to fire a volley into the roof of the net.

Otherwise an encouraging display from Orient. I don't think they will be challenging for promotion at the final run in but judging by their football on Saturday they certainly won't be in danger of relegation.

Certainly Bloomfield must now be happy that his side's recent bad patch appears to be over and he can look forward confidently to Saturday's F.A. Cup tie with Gillingham.

New signing Mike Bullock, after an uncertain first half, settled down and in flashes looked as though he could strike

up a useful understanding with Cross.

He was unlucky not to score in the first half and ten in the second. Orient: Goddard 8, Jones 7, Mancini 3, Taylor (1), 4, "Babe" 1, Mabbitt 7, Allen 3, Slater 7, Bullock 4, Cross 6, Bloomfield 7.

Bullock returned the corner meet and this time Cross fluffed with a characteristic dipping shot which had Walker groping in vain as that, too, cleared the bar.

But most of the match must be for the Markism Slater. Slater was in devastating form saying this way and that and turned in a first half display that must have had poor Watford full-back John Williams believing in ghosts.

Watford put two players on him but there was no holding Slater. He rounded off his uncanny dribbling with great crosses that should have brought at least one goal. But Slater suffered after the break when he hardly saw the ball—a pity when he was in such match-winning form.

Orient: Goddard 7, Jones 7, Rife 6, Harper 6, Mancini 7, Slater 8, Massey 6, Allen 6, Bullock 6, Bloomfield 5, Sub. 7, Cross 7.

Watford: Walker, Withbourne, Williams, Eddy, Garvey, Watley, Scullion, Hale, Garbett, Endean, Owen. Sub.: Green.

# GOALDEN BARRIE AT ORIENT

**BARRIE FAIRBROTHER** (right), a dashing young apprentice with Orient, looks like achieving the exceptional performance of getting his century of goals for the club even before he becomes a professional—as he will surely do at the end of December, writes Harold Palmer.

Fairbrother, Hackney-born and sporting a drooping moustache, will be 18 on December 20.

Orient have then to decide whether he should be offered professional terms—and it is not surprising that, having scored 55 goals in junior and reserve teams already, this strong, sleeky centre-forward has been given an assurance by manager Jimmy Bloomfield that terms will be offered.

It was as a ruckly wing-threequarter that Barrie gained honours at his school, Burnt Mill, Dagenham.

His ambitions he lists, at least in the present, as "getting signed and making the first team."

