

Os soar back to the top as...



MICKEY BULLOCK ON TARGET WITH THIS SHOT TO NET THE SECOND.

Fairbrother and Bullock make it look so easy

Orient 3
Bury 0

AS ORIENT marched proudly back to the top of the Third Division with this confident, calculated victory over a mediocre Bury side, many hundreds of supporters could be seen leaving the Brisbane-road ground some ten minutes before the end.

And it was not difficult to understand their reasons for doing so. The result was beyond doubt, the thick mud had taken its predictable effect on the standard of play, and some rather strange decisions by referee Capey of Cheshire made the game even more difficult to understand.

ANTI-CLIMAX

But still this was Orient's best home win of the season.

It should have been a night of glory—a night to remember—the occasion when Orient finally proved to their own fans that they were the best in the division. And for the 9,000 or so who remained until the final whistle to give Terry Mancini and his boys a standing ovation, it was.

Yet as the supporters trooped home there was an air of unfulfilled promise, an atmosphere of anti-climax. Orient had achieved their victory too easily. From the moment when Barrie Fairbrother put them ahead in the ninth minute, they never looked like losing.

And it was this factor which contrived to produce some uncharacteristic sloppy play, especially towards the end of the first half, which had the expectant fans groaning and moaning during the interval.

Indeed this was not one of O's finest performances. Their overall superiority was not turned into a realistic scoreline, while a casual air crept into the defence, which could, against a more superior team, have resulted in downfall.

Yet for sheer work-rate

and ability these two points were, without doubt, fully deserved. But it does not seem fair reward for the players, after such continued effort and endeavour, to be treated in this way.

In this respect it was only justice that Barrie Fairbrother should score his second, O's third, three minutes before the final whistle. A goal which gave that note of finality to a performance which merited an even more decisive score.

If Orient do gain promotion it will be a far tougher struggle than it has been this season. If they do not, it will be just as difficult. In either case, and for the ten remaining home fixtures, they will need the encouragement of every supporter from first whistle to last.

SPECTACULAR

Fairbrother's first followed a long Tommy Taylor free kick and tricky work by an on-form Mark Lazarus, while the second, from Mickey Bullock, was one of the best, if not the most spectacular, goals seen at Brisbane-road this season.

Dyson and Brabrook played a neat two-man move on the left. The ball was sent back to Bullock and he hit it hard and accurately past the static Bury defence.

Mancini, Lazarus and Dyson all went close before Fairbrother rounded off a fine piece of running by Dennis Rofe for the third, minutes from time.

Obviously very happy with the result Jimmy Bloomfield commented: "I think the lads gave a very professional and competent performance, especially considering the conditions. We are a short—rather than long—ball team, and are subsequently more liable to get bogged down in the mud."



FAIRBROTHER SLAMS HOME THE FIRST AGAINST BURY.