

Bloomfield moves for stand-by defender

ORIENT manager Jimmy Bloomfield plans to bring a defender to the club on trial, to fill the gap created by the injury to skipper Terry Mancini.

Bloomfield was not prepared to name the player until the deal is completed but stressed he was after the new man simply to provide cover.

"Our present staff is quite good enough to see us through while Mancini is out. But if we get any more injuries we could be in trouble and I am planning to safeguard against this," explained Jimmy.

For the clash at Reading tomorrow Orient rely on the side that finished the game against Tranmere with Tommy Taylor at centre-half, Peter Allen in the back four and Dick Plume in the field. The team will be captained by Barry Dyson.

Both Mick Jones—who lost Stb. in three days—and Peter Brabrook had stomach upsets that caused them to miss training early in the week. But both have recovered, as has Dennis Rofe.

who aggravated an ankle injury last week.

Mancini was discharged from Bart's Hospital on Monday with the good news that he could be back in action within four weeks.

"The crack in the bone is very small and specialists have told us that, with luck, he could be back in a month. We can only wait and hope," commented Bloomfield.

present held by Leeds boss Don Revie.

This is the first time that Divisional Awards have been made. Previously they were confined to the First Division.

SENIOR

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Jimmy Bloomfield learned yesterday that he had been nominated the Third Division's manager of the month by a panel of sportswriters in conjunction with the Football League Review.

He wins £100, a gallon of Scotch whisky and points for the Manager of the Year award, at



● The moment that marred Orient's victory on Saturday. Skipper Mancini lies face downwards on the Brisbane Road turf after falling awkwardly. Minutes later he was on his way to hospital.

MANCINI INJURY DIMS ORIENT JOY

Orient 2, Tranmere 0

By JOHN BARTON

THERE has not been much success down Leyton way for a year or two, but they have not forgotten how to celebrate.

A goal in 52 seconds from inside-forward Micky Bullock greeted their largest home crowd of the season, who saw a display true to Orient's place at the top of the Third Division.

Tranmere goalkeeper Frankie Lane and the rest of his defence looked numbed as teenagers Rofe and Fairbrother set up the chance for Bullock to side-foot home.

The next 25 minutes were almost as bad for Tranmere as Orient's shrewd blend of teenagers and near-veterans gleefully pressed forward.

Storton, in despair, headed against his own bar. Lazarus had a goalbound shot blocked on the line—the first of four saves by Smith and Moorcroft with the goalkeeper beaten.

But after 25 minutes Orient lost a little steam.

Terry Mancini fell awkwardly in going up for a corner and was carried off with a badly twisted ankle. He was taken to hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

Manager Jimmy Bloomfield groaned: "It's about the worst blow we could have."

Taylor dropped back but Orient were never quite the same again.

Volley

Twice little Eric Brodie might have beaten a less alert keeper than Goddard with snap shots from the edge of the area.

Orient's second goal came midway through the second half with all of their outstanding players contributing.

First Dyson had a chip stopped by Smith on the line. Then Lazarus had a goal-bound shot headed out by Smith. The ball ran loose and Rofe volleyed it in off a post.

Rofe looks a superb prospect. He is still only 19, and he was always ready with the overlap, covered superbly in defence and contributed some of the most telling passes of the game.

ORIENT: Goddard 8; Jones 8, Allen 7, Taylor 7, *ROPE 9; Dyson 8, Mancini (inj.) 9; Lazarus 9, Bullock 7, Fairbrother 7, Brabrook 5. Sub: Plume 5. TRANSMERE: Lane 8; Storton 5, Smith 5, Moorcroft 5, Gill 5; Casey 5, *BRODIE 8; Pritchard 5, Beamish 5, Yardley (withdrawn) 4, Mossley 5. Sub: Kennedy. Referee: A. Green (Sheffield) 7.

Password is courage for brave Orient

ORIENT 2, TRANSMERE ROVERS 0

Orient will beat better teams before the season is over and they will probably win by bigger margins. But they will surely never pull off anything to equal Saturday's memorable victory.

BY JACK STEGGLES

What seemed a mere formality, a comfortable victory romp, was halted abruptly in the 25th minute when skipper Terry Mancini was carried off with an ankle injury—the first action he has missed since joining Orient 120 games ago.

When the strongest link in the third division's strongest defence disappeared there could have been few in the 11,733 crowd—the best Saturday attendance this season—who fancied Orient's chances of holding out.

For the rest of the first half and the early part of the second, Tranmere seized the initiative as Orient struggled to overcome their handicap.

But Orient proved they have the character to match their ability by battling back bravely to drain the last drop of resistance from Tranmere with a second goal midway through the second session.

Spectators were still queuing to get in when Orient took a quick fire lead. The game had been in progress just 52 seconds when Mick BULLOCK took his season's tally to 13 by volleying home after Fairbrother had nodded down a forward pass from Rofe.

Then Storton headed a Lazarus cross on to his own bar and a fierce close range effort from Lazarus struck Lane's legs and bounced to safety.

Lazarus—who was to revel in the fight and turn in a great game—gave Brabrook a glorious chance with a square ball across the face of the goal. But Peter overstretched and hooked over the top.

Midfield man Brodie was the chief threat to Orient and he tested Goddard with two blazing efforts. A third appeared to have beaten the keeper when Jones stuck out a leg to clear the danger.

Orient's moral fibre carried them through the sticky spell and Barry Dyson—what a worker—let Tranmere know they were still full of fight by beating Lane with a beautiful chip from the edge of the box.

Derek Smith popped up to head it off the line and he repeated the act sixty seconds

later—in the 68th minute—when Lazarus let fly. But this time Tranmere's luck ran out.

The subsequent clearance arrived at ROFE, who capped a strong run by shooting a left footer high over the defence and in off the far post.

From this point Tranmere clearly recognised they were second best and even the substitution of Paul Kennedy for the free-scoring George Yardley made no difference.

There was only one team in it as the final minutes ticked away. That team was not Tranmere and keeper Lane knew little about a shot from Dyson that landed on the roof of the net and one from Plume that swished inches wide.

Orient: Goddard 9, Jones 9, Rofe 9, Taylor 9, Mancini (injured), sub. Plume 9, ALAZARUS 9, Bullock 9, Fairbrother 9, Dyson 9, Brabrook 9.

Tranmere: Lane, Storton, Gill, Moorcroft, Smith, Brodie, Pritchard, Casey, Yardley, Beamish, Crossley, (Sub. Kennedy for Yardley 72nd minute).