

Eric Whitington joins Orient

ORIENT HAVE taken former Brighton centre-half Eric Whitington on a month's trial to plug the gaps left by injury to Terry Mancini and Dave Harper.

Whitington, 23, made his mark in Brighton's first team as a teenager before leaving for a spell in South Africa.

He made his Orient debut against his former club on Wednesday night and did a good job of marking the free scoring Alan Gilliver.

Despite Whitington's satisfactory display he is unlikely to earn a first team call for tomorrow's home match against Rochdale's manager Jimmy Bloomfield himself.

By Jack Steggles

on an unchanged side. Orient gave Harper his first outing for seven weeks in Wednesday's match—but he was forced to leave the field after half an hour and faces a further spell on the treatment table to clear up a strain.

Graham Archell replaced Harper in O's reserve side that played well after conceding two early goals to an experienced Brighton side.

Orient's team was: Bowtell, Bailes, Coombes, Harper (Archell), Whitington, Harris, Moss, Briley, Filby, Plume, Mansing.

Orient's home game against Southport, washed out on January 23, will be played on Monday, April 20 and will be O's last game of the season.

Orient by Jack Steggles



O's first half super show rocks Barnsley

ORIENT 4, BARNSLEY 2

AT HALF-TIME on Monday night Orient fans had no doubts about it—the third division championship trophy was as good as on the Brisbane Road sideboard.

A 45 minute super show from O's had given the cash customers good reason for optimism.

Orient mastered the conditions—snow, ice and mud—to destroy Barnsley with superb soccer. They got three goals before the break and could have had six.

The sickness of their build up and razor sharp finishing made nonsense of Barnsley boss Johnny Steele's pre-match claim that the pitch was unplayable.

It was quite clear that the Barnsley players shared their manager's views as they struggled through a nightmare first half. After the break they redeemed themselves by getting on top as Orient found difficulty when defending the frozen Coronation Gardens end.

Despite that fearful first half pounding Barnsley insisted on trying to play quality football and the net result was a fine evening's entertainment for the 10,792 fans who braved the elements.

Stand in keeper Brian Sherratt—called up for injury hit Brian Arblaster—wondered what he had been let in for as Orient waged war on him.

Three times the brave keeper came out quickly to beat Barrie Fairbrother to raking through passes and it was his courage that kept Barnsley in the game.

But Sherratt was powerless in the 24th minute when Orient swept into the lead. A long free-kick from Mick Jones freed Mick BULLOCK unmarked at the far post and Bullock drove firmly beneath the diving keeper.

On the half-hour a magnificent goal by Norman Dean was disallowed because George Hamstead—20 yards away—was

Mancini out another four weeks

ORIENT'S hopes of having skipper Terry Mancini back in action in a fortnight were dashed following a visit to hospital on Monday.

The plaster was taken off his injured ankle—but another one quickly put on when it was discovered the crack had not properly mended.

Mancini goes to hospital in another two weeks and it is now certain he will be out for the six weeks predicted when he sustained the injury.

ruled offside and Orient celebrated the let off by adding their second.

Dennis ROFE took a throw from Peter Brabrook and made ground before hitting a cross shot that skipped under Eric Winstanley's boot and beat the unguarded Sherratt.

Orient had played some whipped cream soccer and in the 35th minute they produced the cherry to top the whipped cream. Dick Plume headed forward to Barnsley's defence, sending Mark LAZARUS away to fire a glorious goal.

Before the break Barnsley had more bad luck when Loyden headed against the bar. But they

● ABOVE: Mick Bullock swoops to fire Orient's first goal from the edge of the six-yard box.

ORIENT BID FOR SETTERS FAILS

ORIENT'S BID TO GET COVENTRY'S VETERAN DEFENDER MAURICE SETTERS ON LOAN HAS FAILED.

O's boss Jimmy Bloomfield—concerned by injuries to skipper Terry Mancini and Dave Harper, saw Setters as the man to help Orient sustain their promotion challenge.

But Setters, believed to be among the applicants for the vacant manager's job at Southend, did not want to make any move that might jeopardise his chances.

Orient this week signed apprentice striker Bobby Moss as a full professional. Moss, a former Ilford schoolboy, is in his third season at Brisbane Road, and was robbed of the chance of an England Youth cap when he broke an arm in October.

Mick JONES—carried off in the closing stages of Monday's match against Barnsley—had two days treatment and did not train. But Bloomfield confirmed that he will be fit to face Gillingham tomorrow.

Bloomfield saw Gillingham beat Doncaster 2-1 on Wednesday, and stresses that the Gills will give O's a tough fight. "They have improved a lot and fully deserved to win," commented Jimmy.

Dave Harper—forced to leave the field in last week's reserve match at Brighton—has not trained since, while Malcolm Slater is confined to his Southend home, still on crutches after a pelvis operation.

Recent postponements at Brisbane Road mean that O's season will be extended by a week. They are at home to Southport on Monday April 20, and hope to entertain Rochdale on Saturday, April 25.

cut the arrears with an hour gone. Mick JONES deflecting a Hamstead cross into his own net.

Graham came to Barnsley's rescue by hooking a Fairbrother effort off the line but Orient restored their three goal advantage when skipper Barry DYSON held off three tackles to shoot low from 10 yards.

DEAN netted from close range in the 78th minute but by this time the game was over.

Orient had come through a sticky patch to take themselves back to the top of the table. They bore the look of champions and had no weak link.

Particularly outstanding was Tommy Taylor, who settled well into the centre-half spot and had

Happy Orient hit the top again

Orient 4 Barnsley 2

ORIENT are back on top of the Third Division this morning—thanks to 60 of their fans and "Soccer that makes us look like champions."

The fans made the game possible. They rolled and sanded the pitch yesterday, and watched their efforts rewarded when referee Peter Walters (Bridgwater) said the promotion clash

Barnsley, who were a fine side."

But for all their promotion ambitions the Barnsley side could do little against that goal burst.

MICKEY BULLOCK started it with a devastating strike in the 25th minute. It was his 16th goal of the season—and perhaps one of his easiest as he picked up a Mick Jones free kick and scored without challenge.

Orient were in the mood for glory. They scored further ahead after 33 minutes.

ERIC WINSTANLEY distracted goalkeeper Brian Sherratt as he tried to clear a centre from full-back Dennis ROFE and the ball just trickled over the line.

You'd have thought it was all over when Bullock taken his pass for MARK LAZARUS to crack in a tremendous third goal for Orient.

DEFLECTION

But Barnsley, eyes on their own Second Division chance, increased the tempo of their game and pulled one back in the 58th minute.

Eddie Loyden hit the bar, then George Hamstead's shot was deflected by JONES past Orient keeper Ray Goddard.

Barnsley might have expected the obvious reversal. It came eight minutes later, increasing the score 4-1 when standing skipper Barry DYSON sneaked a low shot round the stretching hands of Sherratt.

That was about it. The ever-alert DEAN made it 4-2 in the 79th minute but Barnsley were already beaten.

And how the Bloomfield praise flowed afterwards. "Our 16-year-old Tommy Taylor did a fantastic job at centre half."

"He was switched there when our skipper Terry Mancini broke an ankle bone and he's done a mighty job."

"It's all the more encouraging because we heard today that Terry has to have a new plaster on his ankle and it won't come off for another two weeks."

Now this is how the top of Division Three looks:

Home	Goals	Away	Goals
Orient	25	11	7
Reading	25	11	7
Luton	26	8	5
Brighton	21	9	4
Bris	21	10	4
Barnsley	22	12	2

DAZZLING ORIENT BACK AT THE TOP

Orient 4, Barnsley 2

THREE goals in eleven minutes of the first half shot Orient back to the top of the Third Division table at Brisbane-road last night.

To the roar of more than ten thousand fans, who had leaved the ley night, Orient simply stunned their promotion rivals with this dazzling performance.

And before a gallery of rival clubs scouts and managers, including West Ham's Bertie Mee of Arsenal, whose eyes, apparently, were on Orient's talented youngsters Tommy Taylor and Dennis ROFE.

Orient top striker Mike Bullock set the standard in the twenty-fifth minute when he swept home a long pass from the right.

Eight minutes later, bulldog full back ROFE earned what looked like a pass round keeper Brian Sherratt.

Sherratt had not recovered when Mark JONES—deflecting a Hamstead cross shot on the run—easily beat the second half keeper. Jones, who was later sent off with a double yellow card and replaced by Terry Pernice, put Orient 3-1 up.

But Barry DYSON grabbed Orient's fourth goal when he scored from a second eleven minute Orient free kick.

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