

Eric Whittington joins Orient

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

Whittington, 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 Gulliver.

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

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

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, Bailey, Coombes, Harper (Archell), Whittington, Harris, Moss, Briley, Filby, Plume, Manning.

Orient's home game against Southampton, 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



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

O's first half super show rocks Barnsley

ORIENT 4, BARNSELEY 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 found the far post and Bullock drove lazily 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 ROSE took a throw from Peter Brabrook and made ground before hitting a cross shot that skipped under Eric Winstanley's boot and beat the unsighted 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 Bullock who found a gap in the Barnsley 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

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, 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 couldn't do much against that goal burst.

MICKIE BULLOCK started it with a devastating drive in the 25th minute. It was his fifth goal of the season — and perhaps one of his easiest as he picked up a Mick