

# Mancini out for six weeks

## ORIENT SKIPPER BREAKS ANKLE

ORIENT, two points clear at the top of the table, will face the next six weeks of their promotion challenge without skipper Terry Mancini.

Mancini was carried off in the 24th minute of the game against Tranmere yesterday with a cracked bone in his ankle, and manager Jimmy Bloomfield said ruefully: "It's one of those things we have to take in our stride."

Certainly, if Orient can maintain the courage and fight they showed yesterday after losing Mancini, they have little to fear.

With Dickie Plume substituting and 18-year-old England youth captain Tommy Taylor moving to centre-half, they never allowed Tranmere any advantage from the situation. And near the end they virtually toyed with their relegation-threatened opposition.

Experienced wingers Peter Brabrook and Mark Lazarus frequently entertained the crowd with skilfully arrogant ball control at the expense of

the bewildered Tranmere defenders.

Tranmere's only real threat came from left-half Eric Brodie. But Orient keeper Ray Goddard saved well from two of his powerful shots.

Few can doubt Orient's promotion claims on this showing!

**Scorers:** Mickie Bullock (60sec), Dennis Rofe (69min).



TERRY MANCINI

# TERRY MANCINI IS ORIENT INJURY BLOW

Orient . . . . . 2

Tranmere . . . . . 0

TERRY MANCINI was taken to hospital with a broken bone in his right ankle—an injury that knocked a lot of the gloss off another win for table-topping Orient, writes DENIS FOSTER.

For his absence could seriously affect Orient's hopes on the run in to promotion—even with the luck of having three of their next four games at home.

Manager Jimmy Bloomfield said: "Terry's injury could not have come at a worse moment. If he's back under six weeks I suppose we will have to consider ourselves fortunate."

Orient started off in a rush and Micky Bullock cracked home Fairbrother's pass after only fifty seconds.

They could so easily have been two up inside three minutes when Storton, hard pressed in the box, frantically headed Lazarus's centre hard against his own bar with 'keeper Lane stranded.

But it wasn't until the sixty-eighth minute that teenage defender Dennis Rofe crowned a magnificent display by clinching the points after Smith had

cleared off the line from Dyson and Lazarus.

That Orient had to work hard to make it safe after so blasting a strike could largely be attributed to the unsettling loss of Mancini who had not missed a game since coming to Orient in November, 1967.

But after an apparently harmless fall in the mud of Tranmere's penalty area midway through the first half, he was carried off in obvious pain.

Plume substituted and England youth skipper Tommy Taylor moved into the middle.

Though Orient's best Saturday crowd of the season—11,733—did not see one of their best displays, there was still no disputing their claim to a Second Division berth next term.

# JIM'S HOT PROPERTY

ORIENT, for so long London's crisis club, are on the up-and-up again. Scouts from Everton, Manchester United, Arsenal, Tottenham and West Ham follow them around almost like a fan club.

Inside the space of 18 months, Orient have re-emerged from being back-to-the-wall near-bankrupts to a club which is paying its way again.

The man most responsible is their alive, alert young manager, Jimmy Bloomfield—as hot an Orient property as any of his young stars.

You won't find Jimmy Bloomfield's name in the list of Soccer bosses who have won a manager of the month award.

You will find him emerging as one of the top managers of Soccer in the 1970's.

That is my confident prediction for the former

By KEN MONTGOMERY

Brentford, Arsenal, Birmingham, West Ham and Plymouth forward, who won Under-23, England's 'B' and inter-League honours in a playing career that ended only at the start of this season. Bloomfield came to Orient only 18 months ago, as player manager. His record in that year-and-a-half has been impressive.

His transfer transactions have been an eye-opener. A side which at today's transfer values must be worth a conservative quarter of a million pounds has cost NOTHING to assemble.

Let Jim Bloomfield explain how he managed it. "I've signed five players since I came and their cost, combined with players on the staff who had been bought, is about £44,000.

"In the same time, I've sold players and collected about £45,000 so the current side hasn't cost us anything."

He has played under some famous managers in his time, and he's learned a little from all of them. Men like Tommy Lawton, Bill Dodgin snr., Tom Whittaker, George Swindin, Gil Merrick and Ron Greenwood. Apart from mere Soccer management, Bloomfield has another quality that seems sure to take him far. Humility.

This week, a coachload of mentally handicapped youngsters spent a glorious morning at Brisbane Road. Another youth club party made a tour of the ground.

"It's wonderful getting groups like these interested in us," says Jim.

Few men can have made the switch from player to manager so smoothly as the slim, dark Cockney.

"It's only in the last four months, since I gave up playing, that I feel I've really got to grips with management."

"Before that, when I was still playing, I didn't get the same insight into running the team. I was too much a part of it."

"Now I can sit back and spot the faults."

"One of two other clubs have made me offers, but I'm happy at Orient. They have given me a three-year contract, and it has only run for a few months."

"We are on the right lines. I know that myself, but it's nice to hear experienced men like Luton's Alec Stock and Fulham's Bill Dodgin jr. telling me they fancy Orient's promotion chance."

My only fear for Orient is that they will find their bright young boss as difficult to keep as star youngsters like Tommy Taylor, Dennis Rofe and Steve Bowtell.

# WHAT A TANGLE, BLOOMFIELD

Reading 3, Orient 2

By BOB MORLEY

TWO OF SOCCER'S finest young managers—Reading's Jack Mansell and Orient's Jimmy Bloomfield—summed it all up after this clash between their promotion-hopeful teams.

Said Mansell: "Orient were playing so well at first that I was worried. But my lads worked themselves out of trouble."

Said Bloomfield: "We should have seen it up in the first half when we were well on top, but we got into defensive muddles."

He could have added that Orient missed the steady influence of injured Terry Mancini, 18 years old Tom Taylor in the No. 5 shirt, read the game well. But he lost Habbins at vital moments.

It was a superb goal by Habbins that restored Reading's lead, after Bullock had headed in the equaliser, the cracking own goal by Orient's Peter Allen.

Orient's defence was tangled again when Plume just failed to hook out a close-range shot by Barrie Wagstaff. At 3-1 it looked all over.

But Orient showed their resilience. Bullock brought them back with a calm half-volley for his second goal.

One way and another, it was not Orient's day. There was that own goal. Then they were denied a penalty early on, when a handling offence looked certain. And Brabrook was booked for throwing the ball discourteously to the referee.

Nineteen-year-old Dennis Rofe was their star, checking Williams and always fast to overlap.

Reading's defence was generally sound. Dixon found Brabrook tricky, but tighter marking cut out danger from the winger. Butler shut out Lazarus. Denis Allen had to go hard to hold nippy Fairbrother, but Barrie Wagstaff covered effectively.

**READING:** Death 7; Dixon 7; Allen 6; Wagstaff (B) 7; Butler 7; Sharpe 7; WAGSTAFF (C) (GK); Williams 6; Chapman 6; Habbins 7; Harley 7; Sib. 1; Moran.

**ORIENT:** Goddard 7; Jones 7; Allen 6; Taylor 7; Rofe 6; Plume 6; Lazarus 6; Bullock 7; Fairbrother 7; Brabrook 6.

Referee: J. Quinn (Middlesbrough) 6.



PETER BRABROOK Orient

Born Greenwich. Played schoolboy Soccer for East Ham, Essex and London. Joined Chelsea ground staff, 1953, and twice capped for England youth. Gained six caps for England Under 23s and first full cap against Russia in the 1958 World Cup. Won two more full caps before moving to West Ham in 1962, and played well over 150 League games for them. Member of 1964 West Ham F.A. Cup winning side. Transferred to Orient October, 1968.

## FLASHBACK

10 YEARS AGO . . .

Aston Villa top of the Second Division. Villa had taken a two-point lead with two victories in a week. A massive mid-week score saw First Division runners-up Wolves crush Fulham 9-0, with Norman Deeley leading the rout with four goals. Tottenham held on to top spot with a 5-1 win over Preston. A Brian Clough hat-trick kept Middlesbrough close on Villa's tail in the Second Division. In the Third Division Halifax kept in front of Norwich with a 2-1 win at Barnsley, although Accrington had a great 5-4 win at Bradford City. Millwall were Fourth Division leaders after a 2-0 win over Aldershot.