

Gaps hard to find for Bury

By PARRY JOHNS

ORIENT, captained by Barry Dyson, the former Bury player, were soon attacking briskly at Gigg Lane and only a timely interception by Lyon, when the right defensive flank had been penetrated, ended a threatening situation.

Bury, however, were in no way disturbed by the promising beginning by the Third Division leaders and were desperately unlucky not to go into an early lead.

For Goddard kneed out a shot from Arrowsmith and then charged wide Jones' short-range

BURY MATCH REPORT

shot from the rebound. Brabrook was a lively raider for the London side but Bury continued to show up well.

Centre forward J. Jones did well to drop the ball into the goalmouth for Arrowsmith to bring Goddard to his knees with a fine header.

Brabrook was still the chief menace to Bury as from one of his crosses Bullock headed scored. After 15 minutes Bury lost Grundy with a hip injury and following a five-minute delay Anderson came on as substitute.

With neither forward line clever enough to create a gap there was little to keep the crowd interested until right-back Jones broke through to flash the ball inches over the Bury crossbar.

There was little in the play of Orient to suggest that they were League leaders yet Bury themselves did not make any impression. There always seemed, however, to be just a little more positive challenge in the play of the visitors and Bury were lucky when Allen and Fairbrother broke clear through.

A goal seemed certain but Ramsbottom raced out to charge down Allen's shot. After this escape Bury did better and a delightful play by Kerr produced a scoring chance for Hince but the winger never got the ball on target.

Half-time: Bury 0, Orient 0

Immediately on the re-start Kerr was only just wide with a surprise shot. Then Tansey sent Arrowsmith through but too slow to inside the chance. The Shakers were clearly determined to cast aside their earlier ineffectiveness and Jones hit the side-netting with a fast drive.

Orient were not in the picture and Bury continued to apply pressure. Anderson was unlucky when a header was cleared off the line.

Ramsbottom, Eccleshare, Bury: Hince, Lyon, Holt, Hince, Tansey, Kerr, Grundy.

Card: Jones, Ross, Plume, Lazarus, Dyson, Brabrook.

BRABROOK BOOSTER

Orient a Stockport 0 PROMOTION-SEEKING Orient were always in command after the boost of a second-minute goal writes PETER KINLAN

Their finishing did not match approach promise and several first-half chances were squandered. They should have led by more than two goals at half-time against a side who looked resigned to relegation.

Keeper Goddard clutched a couple of second-half crosses, but was troubled by a single Stockport shot. A competent Orient performance was marked by some early, polished probing from winger Brabrook. He teased and tormented with a series of raids in the opening twenty minutes.

It was a glittering Brabrook thrust which set up Orient's first goal. His low cross, cleverly back-heeled by Bullock, went in off hapless Goddington's legs.

An overdue second came when defender Jones surged upfield and thumped a twenty-yard drive which could not hold.

When Ogley dropped the ball in the seventeenth minute Taylor seized his first League goal this season.

"UNITED" . . . by Doug Smith



"I had exactly two kicks today—one on each ankle."

Ankle injury k.o.'s Lazarus

MARK LAZARUS, injured in Orient's midweek defeat at Southport, is out of the side for tomorrow's home clash with struggling Stockport.

Lazarus had ten stitches in a lacerated ankle at a Southport hospital and Orient are battling to get him fit for their tough three match Easter programme.

"Fortunately we have a bit of breathing space," said manager Jimmy Bloomfield. "After the Stockport match we do not play again until Good Friday, which gives us a good chance of getting Mark fit."

O's also hope to have skipper Terry Mancini back for Easter. He did not play in the reserve side at Colchester on Wednesday but is making good progress and should be fit to step out against Aldershot Reserves next Wednesday.

More cheering news came with the return of Dave Harper at Colchester. He gave himself a searching rest and came through with no ill effect.

Bloomfield yesterday described reports linking his name with the vacant manager's job at Birmingham as "pure speculation".

"The first I knew about it was when I read it in the morning papers," said the man who skippered the Midland club for four years.

BARNIE BLASTS BURY

BURY 0, ORIENT 1

ORIENT'S happy habit of making something out of nothing—developed at Bournemouth and carried on at Stockport—brought them their third successive away victory, at Gigg Lane on Saturday.

There seemed little chance when home pivot David Lyons, moving to cut off a quick throw by Peter Brabrook, let the ball run through his legs.

But Barrie FAIRBROTHER had other ideas, pounced on the ball and ran on before blasting a great 25 yarder high into the net.

With Neil Ramsbottom powerless to do anything about it, it was a great goal, a goal that deserved to win any match. And it stretched O's points tally since they lost skipper Terry Mancini to nine points from five matches.

Though Bury were plainly shattered by Fairbrother's killer blow they fought back and had hard luck in the closing minutes when a fine volleyed goal by Paul Hince was ruled out for offside.

Explained manager Jimmy Bloomfield: "At first our lads thought the goal was disallowed for a foul on Tommy Taylor. But the referee said that it was offside."

Orient's only other anxious moments came in the first five minutes, when Goddard beat out a George Jones shot with his legs as he fell and Dennis Rofe headed off the line from Arrowsmith with Goddard beaten.

For the rest of the game Orient were well in control, looking every inch league leaders with their composure and authority.

Up front Fairbrother and Bullock gave the Bury defence

Bury: Ramsbottom, Eccleshare, Tinney, Hughes, Lyons, Holt, Hince, Arrowsmith, Jones, Kerr, Grundy (sub Anderson 17 minutes).

Orient: Goddard 7, Jones 7, Rofe 8, ALLEN 9, Taylor 9, Plume 9, Lazarus 6, Bullock 7, Fairbrother 8, Dyson 9, Brabrook

Peat plots O's defeat

SOUTHPORT 1, ORIENT 0 REVIVED SOUTHPORT licked up their fifth successive home win—and produced their best display of the season—to halt Orient's victory march at Haig Avenue on Tuesday.

Two months ago Southport were in danger of relegation. But since Arthur Peat took over as player/manager they have hoisted themselves up the table, ticking up some notable victories in the process.

Peat always produces the goods against Orient and he had another fine match on Tuesday, driving Southport forward at every opportunity and scampering back to reinforce the defence when necessary.

Southport had the advantage of a strong breeze in the first half and they held the upper hand, with wingers McCarthy and Pring prominent.

Rebs were working well in midfield for Southport and he played a big part in the all important goal, pushing a fine ball through for MCCARTHY to lift a shot over Goddard's head as the keeper raced out.

McCarthy threatened with a couple of other good efforts and Rofe headed off the line from Chapman. Orient's best first half attempt came from Bullock, who took a Brabrook cross and shot on the turn from 15 yards.

Harper returns LONDON MIDWEEK LEAGUE

Colchester Res. 1, Orient Res. 4

Dave Harper made a satisfactory return to duty as Orient stroled to victory at Layer Road on Wednesday.

O's goals came from MOSS, FILBY, PAUL MANNING and SCRIMSHAW. A second half substitute for Terry Brisle, who had been with the first team the previous night.

Orient: Bowtell, T. Manning, Harris, Bailey, Whittington, Harper, Archell, Moss, Filby, Brisle (Scrimshaw), P. Manning

Orient tumble but stay top

By DAVE HORRIDGE: Southport 1, Orient 0

ORIENT are still top of the Third Division, but their promotion drive took a knock at Southport last night.

Southport snapped up both points to bring their total to eleven out of a possible sixteen since manager Arthur Peat took over.

If their win was narrow it was deserved. Orient rarely revealed the urgency expected of a side looking for a clear lead at the top.

Two shots by inside right Mike Bullock—one brilliantly saved, the other against a post—were their only serious replies to long spells of Southport pressure.

Winner

Outside right Roy McCarthy hit the winner in the thirtieth minute, chasing a back header from Neil Redrope and lifting the ball over goal-keeper Jay Goddard from twenty yards.

McCarthy's fierce shooting always threatened any other goal. He put three fierce drives inches wide while another brushed the crossbar.

Redrope, a constant thorn to centre half Tommy Taylor, had a header cleared off the line by Orient left back Dennis Rofe.

Seven minutes from time, Hines got what seemed to be a good equaliser. But referee Kew accepted the linesman's flag that a colleague was offside, although Goddard and a full-back were on the goal-line.

BOOB GIVES ORIENT POINTS

ORIENT probably deserved the invaluable two points they collected with their 1-0 win—but luck went very much their way.

Fairbrother got the only goal of the match midway through the second half, through an inexcusable blunder.

Brabrook took a quick throw-in, Hughes, the Bury right-half, completely missed his kick letting in Fairbrother for a chance he eagerly accepted.

Seven minutes from time, Hines got what seemed to be a good equaliser. But referee Kew accepted the linesman's flag that a colleague was offside, although Goddard and a full-back were on the goal-line.

LAUGHING O's TOP

BURY 0, ORIENT 1

ORIENT leaped back to the top of the table—with a few chuckles over the little bit of luck that gave them a lift.

Bury came storming back four minutes after Fairbrother had put Orient ahead. Kerr fought in a left-wing corner, Jones missed with his head and Hince swept in to volley the ball into the net.

But it wasn't all luck by Orient. They had far more flair among their front men, particularly Brabrook who could have clinched it more convincingly with a better service.

Bury: Ramsbottom 7, Eccleshare 4, Hince 5, Lyons 6, Tinney 7, Kerr 6, Holt 5, Moss 5, Arrowsmith 5, Grundy (in.). Sub: Anderson 5.

Orient: Goddard 6, Jones 6, Plume 6, Taylor 7, Rofe 7, Dyson 6, Lazarus 5, Bullock 6, Fairbrother 8, Brabrook 8. Referee: G. Kew (Leeds) 6.