

Orient tops in TV match of the day

BY VINCE WRIGHT

Orient 3, Stockport County 0
THE TELEVISION cameras were at Brisbane Road on Saturday for the first time this season but the BBC's choice of match was not an entirely successful one.

With second in the table Orient playing bottom club than a home win would have been highly unlikely and the result ran true to form. Thus TV viewers—Orient fans excepted—had the misfortune of seeing a ridiculously one-sided "Match of the Day."

Stockport's dismal away record—they have scored a mere seven goals on opponents grounds and lost 15 times—would be in for an easy afternoon but even Goddard must have been surprised at his total lack of involvement in the game. He did not have a shot to save and could easily have taken 40 winks as his colleagues kept the ball in Stockport's half for 95 per cent of the match.

With Mark Lazarus and Terry Parmenter injured, O's recalled fit-again Dave Harper for his first game since Boxing Day and the clever way he linked with the midfield pair Plume and Dyson made his selection justified.

Orient, determined to make sure that the defeat at Southport was only a temporary lapse, overwhelmed Stockport from the first whistle and were ahead after two minutes. Dyson wriggled his way past Smith near the bye-line and his fast low cross from the right was turned into the net by Stockport centre-half John Coddington.

Dyson (twice), Barrie Fairbrother, and Plume missed good chances of increasing Orient's lead before Micky Bullock, trying desperately to



Two and a half minutes gone at Brisbane Road on Saturday and Orient are one-up. Luckless Stockport defender Coddington (5) has turned a centre from Barry Dyson (far left) into his own goal. Micky Bullock (right) looks on tensely. Picture by Archie McNeice. ★ (625)

improve his tally of 16 goals, had two wretched pieces of luck. First he turned quickly on Jones' probing pass and forced County goalkeeper Ogley to a magnificent save. Then his right-foot shot clipped the inside of a post following a delightful through pass from Harper.

Seventeen-year-old Jimmy Collier drove wildly over the bar in Stockport's first raid of note after 30 minutes.

But Orient soon took up the running again and Mick Jones hit a long overdue second goal five minutes before half-time. Peter Brabrook's astute pass put him clear on the right wing and Ogley, expecting a high centre to the far post, was caught out as Jones drove low and hard for the near post. The goalkeeper could only palm the ball into the net. As Jones had earlier rocked the crossbar with a 25-yard free-kick, justice had been done.

Orient, became a little complacent in the second half but they were still alert enough to score a third goal after 71 minutes. Ogley fumbled Plume's deep free-kick when challenged by Fairbrother. Barrie tapped the ball forward a few yards and Tommy Taylor, looking every inch a First Division player, was on hand to sweep it imperiously home.

Manager Jimmy Bloomfield said afterwards: "What really pleases me is the fact that the players' form has not faltered in the slightest, even though injuries have forced me to chop and change the team during the last few weeks."

Orient: Goddard, Jones, Rafe, Allen, Taylor, Plume, Harper, Bullock, Fairbrother, Dyson, Brabrook.

Deserve promotion

A Chingford man, Mr P. F. Smith, Amersbury Drive, writes:

IN A LETTER to the Guardian back in September I stated that if Orient continued to play attacking football as against Bradford City it was sure to bring both success and bigger crowds. That I am pleased to say is exactly what is happening as the season approaches an exciting end. If any team deserves promotion it certainly is the O's.

They have an excellent blend of youth and experience and are producing football better than at any time in my years of watching them—most certainly better than when they won promotion a few years ago. More encouraging is the fact that they are still improving.

One must not forget that a lot of their early sparkle stemmed from the drive of Dave Harper, a player whose services have been denied through injury for two

months. Add to this the loss of Terry Mancini and Orient begins to realise the magnitude of the achievement of being at the top of the Third Division. I have no doubt that Orient will be in Division Two next year.

I watched the match against Bristol Rovers, for which a crowd of 14,000 turned up. This was a good crowd compared to earlier attendances but a long way short of figures the O's football deserves. The following Wednesday I went to see my own team (Tottenham) play Everton. What a difference in crowd size but the football was not nearly as good as two evenings prior.

So my advice to anybody living within travelling distance of Brisbane Road is "get along and support the club." They have got a good manager, an exciting side and, what is more, promotion to the Second Division in sight.

Brave Brabrook earns his glory

Orient 3, Stockport 0 By SAM BARTRAM

WEMBLEY beckons for Chelsea. Jimmy Greaves has gone to West Ham. But Peter Brabrook is determined that his two former clubs will not grab all the glory.

He turned out for Orient yesterday when he should have been resting an injured back—and helped them keep up their challenge for promotion from Division Three.

Parmenter, Lazarus and Slater were all kept on the touchline through injury so Brabrook HAD to play. And his speed and footwork had Stockport in trouble all the way.

Orient should have had many more goals against the worst side I have seen this season.

Manager Jimmy Bloomfield summed it up neatly when he said: "I was pleased with our first-half showing—but we let them off. That's always the danger when one side has so much of the play."

An own goal by Coddington gave Orient the start they wanted. After that, Stockport were never in it.

Cracked

Jones cracked in a second, and Taylor grabbed the third—his first of the season—to round off another display typical of those that have been pulling in the scouts all season.

Bullock and Jones both hit the posts, and a dozen other shots went close, even though Orient did little more than amble through the second half.

Stockport had a lively winger in Price, a brave goalkeeper in Ogley, and traces of old-time England skill from Broadbent, now in his 18th season. But they were outclassed from kick-off to injury time.

Orient: Goddard 6; Jones 6, Allen 5, Taylor 6, Rafe 6; Dyson 7, Harper 7. BRABROOK 3, Fairbrother 7, Bullock 7, Plume 6.

STOCKPORT: Oiler 5; Haydock 4, Smith 4, Coddington 2, Robinson 4; Grimith 5, Ormrod 4, Broadbent 6; PRICE 7, Dyson (withdrawing) 4, Collier 6, Subi, Mulholland 3.

Referee E. Jennings (Stourbridge) 8.

Orient swept on towards Division Two with an easy 3-0 whipping of Stockport. Only surprise was that Orient failed to score even more.

Barry Dyson wasted at least three great chances by over-anxiety in shooting.

Hard-luck story belonged to Peter Bullock. He struck one glorious shot on the turn which Alan Ogley brilliantly turned aside. Minutes later he hit the inside of a post.

Orient to only three minutes to score their first

when John Coddington turned a Dyson cross into his own goal. After that, it was a cakewalk. Scorers.—Orient: Coddington (own goal), Jones, Taylor.

MANCINI BACK?

Orient centre-half Terry Mancini is all set to boost O's promotion challenge by making his first team comeback against Plymouth Argyle today (Good Friday).

Mancini, who broke a bone in his right ankle against Tranmere two months ago, was chosen for a London Mid-Week League match at Aldershot on Wednesday and will have a late fitness test tomorrow morning. If Mancini is fit then Dickie Plume who has played so soundly over the last month is the man most likely to make way for him. O's have conceded only one goal in the past six matches.

Mark Lazarus has recovered from a cut above the ankle sustained in the Southport

match and should also return to the side. The cut needed 10 stitches but these were removed on Tuesday. Peter Brabrook, who played against Stockport despite muscular trouble in his back, suffered no more ill-effects and is expected to be considered for selection.

Someone may have to stand down for Dave Harper who proved his fitness in the match against Stockport on Saturday. It could be Barrie Fairbrother, second highest scorer but least experienced member of the Orient team.

While O's keep hard on the tails of league leaders Brighton, the reserves are also performing good deeds. Bobby Moss, Malcolm Filby, Phil Manning and Brian Scrimshaw were the marksmen in Orient's recent 4-1 Mid-Week League CUP victory at Colchester.

Team with championship look



FAVOURITES to win the Walsham Inter Estate League Under-18 section in its season were the beaten leaders, Chingford Hall. Two weeks ago they ended the undefeated run

of their closest rivals, Beaumont, winning a thrilling game by 3-2. Pictured (left to right) are: Frank Jones, Drinkwater, S. Shaw, K. Murrell, D. Mason. Middle row—

P. Best, B. Coupland, J. Field, S. Cripp, T. Lewis, D. Jobber, Back row—trainer Michael Anderson, B. Mills, I. Cox, G. Turner and coach David Jobber. ★ (608)