

# AND ALL RARIN' TO GO

**O**RIENT have so often flattered to deceive that it seems unwise to predict that this season could be their best for a very long time.

But, having been to their new lush training ground at Blake Hall Road, Wanstead, seen the players in such high spirits and heard the enthusiastic comments from the manager, coach

## BY VINCE WRIGHT

and directors, I can't help thinking that Orient are well equipped to challenge for the Third Division championship.

Orient made a whirlwind start last year. They were unbeaten until mid-September and they conquered Second Division Fulham and Gillingham in the League Cup. But then ex-international winger Peter Brabrook injured an Achilles tendon. He did not play again and O's form slumped.

At the finish Orient escaped relegation by just two points, their third successive close escape from the dreaded drop.

However, their final match last season was a real eye-opener. The O's played classic football to thrash relegation favourites Shrewsbury 4-0, thus ensuring their Third Division safety. Many supporters said it was the best they had seen them play since their promotion year in 1962.

The victory was vital. Not only did it save O's the drop into Division Four but it made the players believe in themselves. If Orient play through-



● Manager Jimmy Bloomfield, pictured behind the wheel of the club van, will be the driving force behind Orient team this season. Will 1970 be O's year? If looks are anything to go by, then the players are very optimistic about O's chances. Seen here (left to right) are physiotherapist Charlie Simpson, Mick Jones, Barrie Fairbrother, Peter Allen, Dickie Plume, Terry Parmenter, Malcolm Slater, Denis Rofe, Ray Goddard, Peter Brabrook, trainer Peter Angell and Dave Harper. Picture by Keith Stretten. ★ (757)

out the 1969-70 season as they did on that memorable night they should be strong candidates for promotion.

The Football League's decision not to permit Friday night football is, of course, a bitter disappointment to the club but if they play well and get favourable results they will have no trouble luring floating Tottenham, West Ham and Arsenal supporters to Brisbane Road. Orient begin their 1969-70 programme with a friendly at Romford tomorrow (Saturday). Best of luck O's.

## MASSEY GOES

**T**HE £5,000 which Orient obtained from the sale of forward Roy Massey to Colchester last week will almost certainly be spent on a new striker. It could be Bourne-mouth centre-forward Keith East.

Lack of a consistent goalscorer was Orient's main failing last season—Barry Dyson was top marksman with only 10 goals—and manager Jimmy Bloomfield is trying to remedy the weakness in time for the big kick-off on August 9. Thus Massey rejoins his former boss, ex-Orient chief Dick Graham, following in the footsteps of defenders Brian Wood and Bert Howe who went to Colchester on a free transfer last month.

Massey came to Brisbane Road from Rotherham almost two years ago, had a wonderful first season when he finished top goalscorer with 12 goals but lost form last year.

## The big kick-off

# ORIENT v FULHAM IN LEAGUE CUP ON WEDNESDAY

By Vince Wright

**W**HEN the Orient players catch the morning train to Rochdale tomorrow (Saturday) they will be determined not only to win their first match of the season against newly promoted opponents but to make up for three disappointing years.

In the last three seasons Orient have promised much but achieved little. They have had too many battles against relegation for their comfort but manager Jimmy Bloomfield seems to be slowly removing this "struggling image."

Although O's personnel is much the same as last season—only Roy Massey and Bert Howe have left and Dickie Plume has arrived—there is something refreshingly new about Brisbane Road. A new training ground at Blake Hall Road, Wanstead, a new lush pitch and a new iron will on the part of the players.

The first team squad with the exception of John Key are all fit and they should bring back at least a point from Lancashire tomorrow.

However, there are still some doubts about Orient's ability to challenge for the Third Division championship. The whole team gave a tepid and uninspiring performance in a recent friendly at Romford and although O's held Second Division Portsmouth to a goalless draw in another friendly at Brisbane Road there was a familiar and disconcerting lack of thrust among the forwards. I am convinced there is nothing

wrong with the Orient side which a reliable goalscorer forward won't cure.

Manager Jimmy Bloomfield has been looking out for a crack marksman throughout the season but has been disappointed in his quest.

After the Rochdale encounter Orient take on neighbours Fulham in the League Cup first round at Brisbane Road on Wednesday.

Fulham will be thirsting for revenge as a Roy Massey goal gave Orient a 1-0 victory in this fixture last season.

Orient's team to play Rochdale tomorrow will probably be: Goddard, Jones, Rofe, Harper, Mancini, Taylor, Slater, Bullock, Allen, Dyson, Brabrook, Sub: Fairbrother.

Two wonderful goals by winger Peter Brabrook paved the way for Orient's impressive 4-2 victory against Southern League club Barnet in an entertaining friendly at Underhill on Monday. With O's leading 2-0 Brabrook exchanged passes with Barry Dyson before slamming home. Ten minutes later his superb

right-foot drive from 15 yards completely beat former Arsenal goalkeeper Jack McClelland. Orient's other marksmen were Terry Mancini, a magnificent header from Slater's corner, and an own goal by Barnet centre-half Lawlor. Barnet replied through Powell and Meadows (penalty).

Orient's second-half substitutes were Fairbrother for Bullock, Moss for Slater, Arber for Harper and Bowtell for Goddard. A thigh injury ruled out full-back Dennis Rofe, but he should be fit for tomorrow's game.

Monday's team: Goddard, Jones, Plume, Harper, Mancini, Taylor, Slater, Bullock, Allen, Dyson, Brabrook.

## Rofe hurt

**O**rient 0, Portsmouth 0. Orient more than held their own in their friendly goalless draw with Second Division Portsmouth but it was a match of little incident or excitement.

Orient's most recent signing Dickie Plume replaced the limping Dennis Rofe in the second half and did very well.

★ IT WILL not be long before DICKIE PLUME wins his first senior game with Orient. And manager JIMMY BLOOMFIELD is confident Plume will be a hit with the fans.

Plume is yet another bargain find who Orient snapped up from Millwall on a free transfer while Fulham were pondering whether to give him a trial.

Plume, introduced to League football two years ago by Millwall, quit the South London club because his chances were restricted by the arrival of DENNIS BURNETT. Bloomfield's former West Ham team mate.



● Action in the Orient goalmouth at Brooklands on Saturday. 'Keeper Ray Goddard stretches all out to push Terry Tapping's corner over the bar with Romford's Roy Sanders waiting to strike.

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