

THE ORIENT

Os HOT UP HUNT FOR STRIKER

Orient ... 3, Brighton ... 2 by Barrie Keeffe

"It left Terry Brissley as the only professional reserve other than goalkeeper Bowtell," said Bloomfield. "It is the big danger of having such a small staff. But I hope the position will have improved by Saturday. The win over Brighton has certainly heartened us after dropping so many points away from home."

Orient's spirited victory over aggressive Brighton certainly should prove a massive confidence booster before home meetings with Hartlepool and Northampton on Monday.

"It is amazing how quickly we did slip down the table," added Bloomfield. "But we have these games in hand, and the run of four away matches on the trot was a big handicap, coupled with our injuries. But I'm confident we can rise as quickly again."

Orient's lack of real striking power was again in evidence on Monday as Terry Mancini came from behind to head home a vital free kick on a night when Os were consistently engineering chances, but failing to

take them.

But once again lack of spending money is the stumbling block for Bloomfield who has recently contacted Oxford United about their leading marksman last season, Mike Bullock and Arsenal's Dave Simmons again in reserve action on Saturday.

"We would need £10,000 to get Bullock—who was on the ground staff when I was at Birmingham," said Bloomfield. "On Saturday I just went to the Arsenal Reserve match as a spectator."

Chelsea's young striker Barry Lloyd is another marksman that has attracted the attention of eagle-eyed Bloomfield. But the Stamford Bridge club are likely to want at least £15,000 if they are to be tempted into parting with him.

Vic Halom was unlucky not to end his month-old goal famine. But his courageous running created Bloomfield's third minute goal.

Former Millwall flyer Dave Armstrong headed Brighton's equaliser 20 minutes later, but Mancini climbed to head his second goal in three days from a Taylor free kick.

Peter Allen—a mid-field powerhouse—fired two tremendous drives just wide before a fiery 65th minute incident in which Lawton was sent off and Mancini settled O's victory from the penalty spot. Nasier headed Brighton's second goal.



ABOVE: Joy for Orient as Terry Mancini (5) turns after scoring O's second goal against Brighton on Monday. Roy Massey (left) and Jimmy Bloomfield are the delighted team-mates.

LATE TWO EASE THE AGONY

Stockport County ... 5 Orient ... 2

Orient completed a tragic run of four away matches—and four defeats—at Edgley Park on Friday.

The loss of eight successive points has plunged them into the lower reaches of the Third Division.

"In all my time in football, I don't think I've ever known of a spell of four successive away games," said player manager Jimmy Bloomfield afterwards. "Matches generally alternate, so that if you're doing badly away, a home win can boost your confidence—and help you do better away next time."

Os—unbeaten just a month ago—looked in for a mighty wallop until a late fight back forced Stockport onto the defensive.

County had raced into a 5-0 lead when, in the last ten minutes, Terry Mancini scored his first goal of the season, and Mick Jones hit another to make the scoreline a little more respectable.

The Orient defence was under constant pressure and Fred Goodwin turned the night into one of personal triumph with four of the goals that destroyed Os—including one from the penalty spot.

Winger Len Allchurch hit a fifth to complete Orient's agony.

How they line up

- TOMORROW**
- WEST HAM (v. Arsenal, away, league, 3 p.m.)
 - WEST HAM RES. (v. Arsenal, home, league, 3 p.m.)
 - MILLWALL (v. Preston North End, home, league, 3 p.m.)
 - ORIENT (v. Hartlepool United, home, league, 3 p.m.)
 - LEYTONSTONE (v. Hendon, away, league, 3 p.m.)
 - BARKING (v. St. Albans, away, league, 3 p.m.)
 - CLAPTON (v. Bromley, away, league, 3 p.m.)
 - ILFORD (v. Kingstonian, away, league, 3 p.m.)
 - LEYTON (v. Ware, away, league, 3 p.m.)
 - DAGENHAM (v. Grays, home, league, 3 p.m.)
 - FORD UNITED (v. Deal Town, away, league, 3 p.m.)
- MONDAY**
- WEST HAM (v. Crystal Palace or QPR, away, London Challenge Cup semi-final, 7.30 p.m.)
 - WEST HAM JUNIORS (v. Chelsea Juniors, home, London Youth Cup final, 7.30 p.m.)
 - ORIENT (v. Northampton, home, league, 3 p.m.)
 - LEYTONSTONE (v. Ilford, home, league, 7.30 p.m.)

Kids march on

ORIENT COLTS 3 CRYSTAL PALACE 1

SHARP-SHOOTING Orient came from behind to win this South East Counties League Cup match—and go on to meet either West Ham, Millwall or Spurs in the semi-final.

BARRY FAIRBROTHER cracked two and BOBBY MOSS one in Os second half fight back after trailing at the interval to much-rated Palace.



Young 2 get call

ORIENT'S two brilliant young teenagers, Steve Bowtell and Tommy Taylor take another step towards full England youth honours later this month.

They have both been selected for training with the international youth party at Lilleshall from October 28-30.

"It's a great honour for the lads," said manager Jimmy Bloomfield. "The experience will be very valuable for them both." Steve and Tommy—both 17 years old—have already won England schoolboy honours.

Cliff Jones deal: Orient pipped

ORIENT were yesterday beaten by London rivals Fulham in the scramble to sign Spurs' Welsh international winger Cliff Jones.

Jones leaves Spurs after serving them for 10 years and the asking price for the flying winger—who still has a lot of football left in him—is a more than reasonable £5,000.

That fee would have been well within Orient's price range after their money-earning run in the League Cup.

It was, however, also well within the pocket of the horde of other clubs that manager Jimmy Bloomfield had to compete with for Jones' signature.

Bloomfield was in the market for the player—and confident of signing him—right up until yesterday morning.

But some attractive bait was dangled before Jones—and Fulham's was obviously more inviting than Orient's.

Orient's lack of punch in recent games and their slide down the table will not be lost on Brisbane Road officials and it's my guess that they will step up their attempts to sign at least one new player.

Arsenal's David Simmons was under the microscope again on Saturday and he gave an impressive display in scoring twice and making the third in Arsenal's 2-0 Football Combination win over Swindon.

Although Orient recently turned down an Arsenal bid of £25,000 plus Simmons for Vic Halom the door may still be open. Orient have stressed all along that Halom is not for sale but they have to listen to offers of this kind.

News of Orient's injured stars is brighter. Roy Massey, who missed the match at Tranmere through a strained groin, is responding to treat-

ment and will almost certainly be fit for tomorrow's home game against improved Northampton.

Peter Brabrook has been having hospital treatment on the Achilles and calf injuries that have troubled him for so long and the club report encouraging progress.

Orient will decide today whether Brabrook plays against Northampton.

Charlie Simpson, a physiotherapist at Whips Cross Hospital, takes up a full-time appointment at Orient on October 27.

Youngsters whip Watford

LONDON MIDWINTER LEAGUE

Orient 4, Watford 2

Orient's youngsters turned in a brilliant performance at Brisbane Road on Wednesday to outclass a Watford side that included experienced men, Ken Furphy, the manager, Roy Low—scorer of the first team's winner against Luton on Saturday—and keeper Bert Slater.

With the exception of Dennis Rofe, O's fielded their entire youth side and FAIRBROTHER (2), ARCHHELL and MOSS got the goals that brought a well-deserved victory.

Orient: Bowtell, Rofe, Bailey; Coventry, Arber, Cook; Archell, Moss, Fairbrother, Brissley, Manning.

IMPROVED TRANMERE JOLT ORIENT

Tranmere Rovers 3, Orient 0

TRANMERE, who looked a poor side when scrambling a point at Brisbane Road earlier in the season, showed their true potential at Prenton Park on Monday by recording a comfortable victory.

Improved Rovers were well worth their win and impressed Orient manager Jimmy Bloomfield as "the best side we have played this season."

Orient were in the hunt for the first 45 minutes when they looked dangerous in breakaways.

But once Tranmere got a two-

goal lead under their belts they were the only team in it.

Yet it could have been so different if O's had got the penalty they deserved shortly before the break.

Vic Halom rounded Storton, moved into the area—and was tripped. Referee Bill Handley (Cannock) appeared to indicate a foul but as he arrived at the scene of the crime he waved play on and relieved Rovers hooked the ball to safety.

Though not committed to a defensive policy Orient had only the huge-hearted Halom striking

and his chances of breaking through a strong Rovers safeguard were slim.

Fireworks which exploded in the first half could have been Orient's saviour. For Mr. Handley threatened to abandon the game if the practice continued.

Tranmere fans, sensing victory, heeded the warning and the second-half fireworks were confined to the pitch.

Tranmere's first goal, after 24 minutes, had a stroke of luck about it. Yardley swung the ball over as Bert Howe moved into the tackle. It clipped Howe's boot and swerved to the near post where an unbalanced Ray GODDARD pushed the ball into his own goal.

But there was nothing lucky about the others, scored by the dangerous McNAMEE in the 47th and 57th minutes.

The first came following a long kick downfield. Tommy Taylor's attempted headed clearance fell to McNamee who moved on before lashing a 25-yard left-footer high into the net.

Then a long clearance from keeper Jimmy Cumbs bounced deep in Orient's half. Mancini's attempted clearance struck colleague Mick Jones and rolled to Yardley, who laid it off for McNamee to fire another strong shot.

Fifteen minutes from time Bert Howe was replaced by substitute Graham Archell. But nothing, at this stage, could have made much difference.

Tranmere: Cumbs, Robertson, Mathias Smith, Storton, T. Casey, Beamish, King, Yardley, Hudson, McNamee.

Orient: Goddard, Jones, Howe, Harper, Mancini, Taylor, Slater, Allen, Bloomfield, Halom, Rofe, Sub. Archell.

That own goal just had to come

Swindon Town 1, Orient 0

It was not surprising that an own goal brought Orient's downfall at the County Ground. What puzzled most of the crowd was that it did not come a good deal earlier.

On what must certainly be their unhappiest hunting ground—they had suffered four goal defeats on each of their last two visits—Orient seemed to go out of their way to be charitable to their hosts in the first half.

After only eight minutes new professional Tommy Taylor, trying a clever chip back to Ray Goddard, beat the keeper and had him scrambling back frantically to fall on the ball almost on the line.

Then a fast cross from former Orient star Johnny Smith was deflected by Terry Mancini—and again Goddard saved the day.

Two minutes before the

interval a suicidal back pass from Mick Jones let in Swindon leader Roy Jones—and there was Goddard to make another fine save.

Goddard saw more action in the first 45 minutes than the average goalkeeper does in two matches. The position looked serious SEVEN times in the first half—each time he stood

between Swindon and a goal.

At times he seemed to be playing them on his own and it was through Goddard that Orient were still on terms at the break.

All that changed sixty seconds after the restart. Bert HOWE, going up to head clear a lob from Butler, tried to duck on getting a late call from Goddard. But the ball clipped the top of his head and rolled over the line.

From this point—with everyone expecting Swindon to move in and finish the job—the game belonged to Orient.

They pushed Swindon back and with midfield men Peter Allen and Jimmy Bloomfield working tirelessly, went forward in a bid to penetrate a defence

yet to concede a league goal on their own ground.

But they lacked the punch to round off some good approach work and the Swindon defence suffered few anxious moments.

The nearest Orient came to scoring was in the third minute, when a swirling cross from Halom bounced on top of the bar. Then Rofe, put clear by Halom, shot hurriedly wide.

Halom was understandably upset when, midway through the second half, he was booked for a remark made to referee Yates.

Swindon: Downsborough, Dawson, Thomas, Butler, Burrows, Harland, Heath, Noble, Jones, Smith, Rogers.

Orient: GODDARD 9, Jones 7, Howe 7, Allen 8, Mancini 8, Taylor 6, Slater 6, Massey 5, Bloomfield 8, Halom 6, Rofe 5.

By JACK STEGGLES