

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

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LUTON TOWN

Saturday, 14th November, 1987 kick-off 3.00 p.m. Barclays League Division One

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"It's worse than losing a war, a national crisis of the highest magnitude."

LORD WIGG,
after Poland had knocked out England, 1973.

"I suppose it will be an all-ticket match."

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER,
on being put into the reserves.

"There is a rat in the camp trying to throw a spanner in the works."

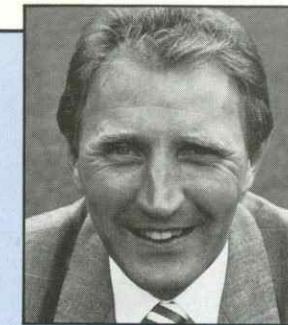
CHRIS CATTLIN,
Brighton manager, 1983.

"The best team always wins. The rest is only gossip."

JIMMY SIRREL,
Notts County manager, 1985.

YOU'RE
BETTER OFF
TALKING TO
BARCLAYS

Source: The Book of Football Quotations, Peter Ball and Phil Shaw (Stanley Paul, an Imprint of Century Hutchinson Ltd).



Our win at Upton Park last Saturday was a real backs to the wall performance. Some would argue that we scored too early, because after our goal West Ham gradually built up pressure to the point where we found it difficult to get out of our box, let alone our half. However, we hung on and earned a result through disciplined defending, skilful counter-attacking, great spirit and a little luck.

Between Friday and Saturday morning five of the players on duty against the Hammers had fitness tests and although all were not 100% fit, all opted to play. It speaks volumes for their character and determination and, for me, was perhaps the most significant reason for the result. It is well known in football that as results dip, injuries can tend to increase but the lads showed real stomach for the fight and we duly reaped the reward.

As I've already said, the result was tinged with a little luck but then that is how it goes in football. Luck is an undeniable fact of football life and anyone seriously involved in the professional game must learn to deal with this intangible element over which he has little or no control. Over the season and over the years it tends to give you as much as it takes and in my opinion we were due, and are still owed, a measure of good fortune after the twists and turns that have gone against us this season.

Obviously after Tuesday night's victory over Bournemouth which takes our tally of wins to five on the trot, confidence within the football club is a little higher, especially as we now seem to be on the way to overcoming some of our more serious injury problems. However, we should spare a thought for Steve McCall and Ian Knight in particular who still slog away day in and day out in their bid to recover as quickly as possible from the fractures they sustained on duty for Sheffield Wednesday. Both have had their plaster removed and both continue to make excellent progress under the circumstances, but it will be sometime yet before either can seriously consider kicking a football in anger. On the bright side, whilst we still continue to pick up injuries of a more minor nature, both Brian Marwood and Larry May now look as if they have got on top of their injury problems, but obviously we must keep our fingers crossed.

Welcome today to our visitors Luton Town who, it would seem, have also had their injury problems this season but, like us, it would appear that they are on the way to overcoming this handicap. In the past our games have generally produced their fair share of entertainment and have not been without incident. I remember in particular the cup-tie and the famous, or infamous, three penalties. With both of us sitting at the moment on 15 points, today's game takes on particular significance.

Finally, I must end on a sad note insofar as recent weeks have seen the very unfortunate deaths of two people who were great Sheffield Wednesday supporters and good friends. Bill Heap was Chairman of the Sheffield Wednesday Football Club Supporters' Club, and John Clarke was a stalwart of the High Green Section of the Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Club. Both worked unselfishly for the club and its supporters, bringing a great deal of happiness to the fans they worked so hard for and they will be sadly missed. We offer our deepest sympathy to their wives, families and friends.

Sheffield WEDNESDAY Football Club

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Runners up: 1949-50, 1983-84.

Division 3: Promoted 1980

F.A. Cup Winners: 1896, 1907, 1935

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The views expressed by the individual contributors are not necessarily the views of Sheffield Wednesday F.C. plc.

Vol 14 No. 9

Front Cover Picture

Nigel Pearson comes to a halt after scoring the match winner v Norwich.

HOWARD
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Lee Chapman in the thick of things against Norwich.

Saturday, 24th October, 1987

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

WEDNESDAY 1 NORWICH C. 0

New signing Nigel Pearson emerged as a hero at both ends of the ground and both ends of the game, becoming the match-saver as well as the match-winner.

Pearson's unexpected shooting prowess came to light in the 12th minute when he fastened on to Lee Chapman's flick-on from a Nigel Worthington free-kick, steering his shot neatly home as the 'keeper burst through.

Although the game — littered with puzzling decisions by the referee — faded as it progressed, there were reliable performances from a good number of Owls' players, in particular

With ten minutes left Pearson showed his defensive strength in the air when he denied Norwich an equaliser. The centre-back completed an excellent home debut by getting his head to the ball after a Mark Chamberlain error allowed Kevin Drinkell to chip over the stranded Martin Hodge, Mel Sterland and Hodge were able to complete the dramatic clearance that guaranteed three vital points for Wednesday.

Sheffielder Wayne Biggins lifted a shot against the top of the Owls crossbar in the opening minutes, but it was the home team that created most of the better chances . . . and missed them.

Lee Chapman ducked to a delightful Chamberlain cross but the ball looped over and later Tony Galvin glanced a header wide from a few yards out as Wednesday stayed in the driving seat following Pearson's strike. Yet Hodge had to be quick to save a deflected Mark Bowen power drive at the other end and in the second half, the Owls' keeper brought cheers when he saved superbly with his feet as Bowen burst through.

Attendance: 15,861

Nigel Worthington who stuck to his task well as Norwich increasingly played the ball to speedy winger Ruel Fox.

Teams: Wednesday — Hodge, Sterland, Worthington, Madden, Pearson, Proctor, Chamberlain, Megson, Chapman, West, Galvin. Subs: Bradshaw (replaced West, 83 mins.), Fee (replaced Chamberlain, 83 mins.).

Norwich — Gunn, Culverhouse, Elliott, Bruce, Phelan, Ratcliffe, Fox, Drinkell, Biggins, Williams, Bowen. Subs: Butterworth (replaced Bruce 82 mins.), Crook (replaced Ratcliffe 75 mins.).

MATCH QUOTES:

Nigel Pearson: Nothing special about the goal, and if I'd not got that one off the line I wouldn't have been doing my job.

Mel Sterland (on Pearson): You don't see many centre-halves with as much skill as he's got."

The Sun: What was most impressive was Pearson's readiness to bark out orders.

Attendance: 15,861

It was worth the admission fee just to see David Hirst's superb flying header which won us the Littlewoods Cup tie at Barnsley.



REPORTS & COMMENTS



Tuesday, 28th October, 1987

LITTLEWOODS CUP, 3RD ROUND

BARNESLEY 1 WEDNESDAY 2

It was a night to remember for one ex-Barnsley player — and a night to forget for another — in a hard-fought derby at Oakwell that saw Wednesday through to the next round in front of a vociferous near-20,000 crowd.

The glory belonged to David Hirst, put on as substitute to add fresh pace in the search for a winner and coming up with a memorable goal against his former club. But one-time Reds defender Larry May found it to be a painful return when he had to be carried off with a cut head and concussion at the end of the first half following a clash with ex-Owl Rodger Wylde.

The Owls opened with a fourth minute goal from the head of Mark Chamberlain, converting a Lee Chapman flick-on from a corner, and largely took control until Steve Agnew came up with a forcefully struck equaliser when Wednesday failed to properly clear a free-kick 23 minutes later.

Barnsley, who had destroyed West Ham at Upton Park in the previous round and no less likely in this, were full of action and created some useful chances — not least of which was one that left Wylde flat-footed when Lawrie Madden missed the ball. Martin Hodge however worked hard to stem the tide until Hirst came off the bench and proceeded to run the Reds ragged and change the course of the tie.

Goal number two for Colin West against Portsmouth.

With fifteen minutes left it all came right: Mel Sterland swung over an early cross and Hirst flew in to bullet a winning header high into the net.

Teams: Barnsley — Baker, Joyce, Cross, Thomas, Gray, Futcher, Wylde, Agnew, Lowndes, Macdonald, Beresford. Subs: McGugan (replaced Agnew 82 mins.), Dobbin (replaced Beresford, 38 mins.).

Wednesday — Hodge, Sterland, Worthington, Madden, May, Jacobs, Chamberlain, Megson, Chapman, West, Galvin. Subs: Fee (replaced May, 45 mins.), Hirst (replaced West, 59 mins.).

MATCH QUOTES:

Allan Clarke (Barnsley manager): When he (Hirst) was sent on I knew he would be capable of a goal.

David Hirst: I could see Mel's cross was going to clear Paul Futcher but I wasn't sure whether to dive in. In the end I thought: To hell with it, I'll take a chance.

Stuart Gray (Barnsley): Wednesday were a bit predictable. Hirst gave them another option.

Attendance: 19,439.

a little magic from Colin West and his wingers.

West was in the right place twice at Fratton Park to score — first of all after just 65 seconds when Mark Chamberlain swept the ball literally off the toes of a Pompey defender and the big striker swiftly converted at the near post, and again in the 55th minute when he linked with the hard-working Tony Galvin and ran into position at the near post once more to shoot the winner from the winger's low centre.

In between, Portsmouth grabbed an equaliser when Gary Megson (who had scored the decisive goal in Wednesday's last game there in 1983) tripped Portsmouth's outstanding and always dangerous Vince Hilaire in the 19th minute. Kevin Dillon knocked in the penalty although Martin Hodge almost reached it.

Within minutes the Pompey fans thought Terry Connor must surely have headed a close range goal but Hodge produced a miracle save and the return shot by Dillon was disallowed for offside. The home team rarely threatened after that, even when Greg Fee had to step in at right back on the half-hour.

Wednesday might have made the game quite safe but David Hirst lifted his shot over after West had been unable to make use of an opening, but Wednesday remained in control of the game although Nigel Pearson's continuing value was underlined by an excellent shot-saving tackle on the weaving Hilaire in the second half.



Wayne Jacobs and Lee Chapman grab a delighted Mark Chamberlain after his goal at Oakwell.

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REPORTS & COMMENTS

Teams: Portsmouth — Knight, Swain, Hardyman, Dillon, Shotton, Ball, Horne, Fillery, Baird, Connor, Hilaire. Subs: Whitehead (replaced Fillery, 71 mins.), Mariner (replaced Connor, 74 mins.).

Wednesday — Hodge, Sterland, Worthington, Madden, Pearson, Proctor, Chamberlain, Megson, West, Hirst, Galvin. Subs: Fee (replaced Sterland, 29 mins.), Jacobs.

MATCH QUOTES:
Colin West: Things are beginning to look up. There's a terrific spirit in the camp.

Alan Ball (Portsmouth manager): We beat ourselves. Our defence was atrocious.

Howard Wilkinson: It was psychologically important we got something to close up on the teams above us.

Attendance: 13,582.

Saturday, 7th November, 1987
BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
WEST HAM 0 WEDNESDAY 1

Three wins out of the last three visits for Wednesday at Upton Park and a boost up the table, although few would regard this as a classic match as the Owls came under the hammer.

West Ham, without a home league win since 29th August but showing recent signs of improvement, were caught cold by Wednesday's first clear strike at goal in the 21st minute. Colin West's ball into the area wasn't properly cleared and Tony Galvin's firm volley forced Hammers' keeper Tom McAlister into a good block, leaving Carl Bradshaw with time and room to calmly turn in his first goal since his cup success at Upton Park last February.

It became something of an ordeal for the Owls as the home team won twenty corners as they attacked repeatedly. Indeed, West Ham could count themselves unlucky when Tony Cottee headed against the bar in the first half and in the second, a stinging Stewart Robson volley hit the resolute Nigel Pearson rather than the goal. Moments later captain Martin Hodge earned the applause with a superb close-range save from Eamonn Dolan's net-bound header.

Attendance: 16,277.

Saturday, 17th October, 1987
N. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

YORK CITY 3 WEDNESDAY 2

Team: Beresford, Hardy, Elshaw, Maybury, Wetherall, Cam, Lycett, Johnson, Elshaw, Cox. Subs: Holinshaw, Copley-Dunn.



Robert Beaumont... on target against Forest reserves.

MATCH QUOTES:

Howard Wilkinson: We have got in excess of £1,000,000 worth of players on the treatent table at the moment, so I have to be delighted with this result.

Daily Mirror: Tom McAlister was only called into action when Wednesday scored.

The (Sheffield) Star: There was a lot more to it than luck.

Attendance: 16,277.

Saturday, 24th October, 1987
N. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 1 SHEFFIELD UNITED 2

Rinkcavage, Hawley, Newsome, Johnson, Barrick. Sub: Beaumont, Hyde. Subs: Newsome, Barrick.

Saturday, 24th October, 1987

N. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 1 SHEFFIELD UNITED 2

Team: Nightingale, Beaumont, Cam, Kidd, Newsome, Wetherall, Swann, Hyde, Lycett, Johnson, Hawley. Subs: Curry, Cox. Scorer: Cam.

Wednesday, 21st October, 1987

CENTRAL LEAGUE

SHEFFIELD UNITED 2 WEDNESDAY 0

Team: Pressman, Hayward, Jacobs, Fee, Brannigan, Cam, Hazel, Owen, Shutt, Hirst, Barrick. Subs: Chamberlain, Bradshaw.

Wednesday, 28th October, 1987

CENTRAL LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 2 NOTTINGHAM F. 1

Team: Pressman, Hayward, Cam, Fee, Brannigan, Owen, Swann, Hyde, Hazel, Bradshaw, Beaumont. Subs: Kidd, Elshaw. Scorers: Bradshaw, Beaumont.

Saturday, 31st October, 1987

N. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

HARLEPOOL 0 WEDNESDAY 2

Team: Nightingale, Beaumont, Curry, Wetherall, Newsome, Barrick, Swann, Cam, Goodacre, Johnson, Elshaw, Lycett, Cox. Scorers: Newsome, Johnson.

Tuesday, 3rd November, 1987

N. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 0 BRADFORD CITY 0

Team: Beresford, Beaumont, Curry, Wetherall, Newsome, Barrick, Swann, Cam, Lycett, Johnson, Elshaw. Subs: Holinshaw, Copley-Dunn.

CENTRAL LEAGUE RE-ARRANGED FIXTURE

Manchester United has now been rearranged from Tuesday, 10th November to Saturday, 21st November. This game is to be held at Hillsborough, kick-off 2.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY CLUB CALL RING 0898 121186

LUTON TOWN

BY TONY PULLEIN

Luton, who created a club record by finishing seventh in the First Division last season, made a disappointing start to the current campaign. Beaten by a solitary goal in their first two games — at Derby and at home to Coventry — the Hatters collected their first point in a 2-2 draw with West Ham at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters then began to show a great improvement. After drawing at home to Arsenal (1-1), they achieved their first victory at Oxford (5-2) and followed this with a fine 2-1 home win over Champions Everton.

Now the Hatters seem to be pulling away from the danger zone.

One heartening thing for new manager Ray Harford — the former Fulham manager who took over at Kenilworth Road in June — has been the form of his namesake, but no relation, Mick Harford. Top scorer with 25 goals two seasons ago, Mick was savaged by injuries last season but is back to his old form. He is top scorer with 10 goals now.

Mr. Harford made only one close season signing, paying Brighton £150,000 for N. Ireland international midfield man Danny Wilson. If Luton are awarded a penalty at Hillsborough, we can expect Danny to take it.

Manager Harford recently signed winger Michael Weir from Hibernian for £200,000.

Luton have lost all their away League games except that one at Oxford. They went down at Derby (0-1), Chelsea (0-3), Charlton (0-1), Q.P.R. (0-2) and Portsmouth (1-3).

The Hatters have made good progress in the Littlewood Cup. They won at Wigan (1-0) in round two, later winning their

home leg 4-2. Because of their ban on away supporters, Luton had to play their third round tie against Coventry at Leicester but they still won 3-1.

They now face a difficult fourth round trip to Ipswich.

Luton last season broke all club records by finishing seventh in the First Division — even though they lost manager David Pleat, the man who had lifted the club from the depths of Division Two, who moved on to Tottenham during the summer of 1986.

John Moore took over but, in spite of the Hatters' unprecedented success, he stood down in the summer because he was never really happy in the job. Coach Ray Harford has now taken over as manager.

He will now be seeking to break more barriers. Luton, founded in 1885, have yet to win any of the game's major honours. Last season was their best in the league and they were beaten by Nottingham Forest when they appeared in their only F.A. Cup Final in 1959.

The Hatters have yet to survive beyond the fifth round of the Littlewoods Cup.

Luton were elected to the Second Division of the Football League in 1897 but failed to gain re-election three years later. They returned to the Southern League and became one of the founder members of the league's Third Division (South) in 1920.

They moved up to Division Two in 1937 and in 1955 tasted First Division football for the first time. But disaster struck following relegation five years later. By 1965 they were in Division Four. Slowly their recovery began. They rose back to Division Three in 1968 and to the Second Division two years later. In 1974 they became the first club ever

to drop from Division One to Four and then regain its place at the top.

That spell of First Division football lasted only one season. But in 1982 they won the Second Division Championship and they have since remained at the top.

LES SEALY (Goalkeeper)

Les developed with Coventry City and held his first-team place for five years before joining Luton in 1983. In a brief period, when he was out of the side in 1984/85, he was loaned to Plymouth.

TIM BREAKER (Defender)

Tim is a Luton discovery. He got his senior chance in 1984 and has been a regular for the past three seasons.

STEVE FOSTER (Defender)

Steve started as a striker with Portsmouth but switched to defence and joined Brighton in 1979. Whilst with the Seagulls, he won three England caps and also played in the 1983 F.A. Cup Final replay. Aston Villa signed him in 1984 and he moved on to Luton about a year later.

MAL DONAGHY (Defender)

Mal was signed from Larne Town in 1978 and has built a wonderful record of consistency, missing only seven league games in nine years. He has also established himself in the N. Ireland team, winning his 50th cap last season.

ASHLEY GRIMES (Defender/Midfield)

Ashley used to be a midfield player but he seems to have settled again at left-back, a position he has filled in the past. He came into English football when Manchester United signed him from Bohemians and he completed some 100 games for the Old Trafford club before signing for Coventry in 1983. He moved on to Luton a year later. Ashley has 13 Republic of Ireland caps.

ROB JOHNSON (Defender)

A Luton discovery, Rob was first introduced to league soccer in 1983/84 when he also played for Lincoln on loan.

DANNY WILSON (Midfield)

Danny was signed from Brighton for £150,000 this summer. He began his league career with Bury, moving on to Chesterfield in 1980. Nottingham Forest paid £100,000 for him in 1983 but he didn't settle at the City Ground so he joined Brighton a few weeks later. Last season he won three N. Ireland caps.

DARREN McDONOUGH (Midfield)

Darren, signed from Oldham for £85,000 last season, is a versatile player who can also play in defence. Introduced to Oldham's league eleven in 1980/81, he made more than 200 first-team appearances for the Latics.

RICKY HILL (Midfield)

Ricky, who joined the club from school, made his debut in 1976 and has now played well over 400 games. He has also been capped by England on three occasions.

BRIAN STEIN (Forward)

Brian was blooded in Luton's first-team in 1977 and led their scoring list for the first time in 1980/81 with 19 goals. The following term, when they won promotion, he led the way again

with 21. Brian has played once for the full England team and also has three under-21 caps.

MARK STEIN (Forward)

Mark is Brian's younger brother and he made his league debut in 1983/84. Further opportunities were rare and, after a loan spell at Aldershot two seasons ago, Mark was anxious to establish himself. He went on the transfer list last season but later got his long-awaited chance to play in the Luton first-team.

MICK HARFORD (Forward)

Mick was once top scorer with Lincoln City and commanded a then record fee of £200,000 for a Fourth Division player when he signed for Newcastle in 1981. A few months later he moved on to Bristol City but, when they could not afford to maintain payments on his transfer, he was sold to Birmingham. Luton signed him for £250,000 three seasons ago.

MICHAEL WEIR (Forward)

Michael was signed from Hibernian for £200,000 in September. He was originally spotted playing for junior club Portobello Thistle and was transferred to Hibernian.

CHUK NWAJIOBI (Forward)

Chuk was signed from Dulwich Hamlet and he was drafted into the Hatters league eleven in 1984. Though out for most of last season, he has been back in action this term.

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SENIOR OWLS CLUB

Our next meeting is for a Christmas Lunch on Tuesday, 22nd December at 12.30. Please phone Bob Gorill to reserve your places. New members and guests welcome.

TODAY'S REFEREE

Ronald Bridges — Ronald is a Distribution Manager and he is married with two boys. He was promoted to the Football League in 1973. His hobbies include junior football administration and gardening.

PALACE EXILES?

Crystal Palace have asked us to inform any of their exiled supporters in our area that the 'PALACE NEWS' monthly magazine is available on application to Selhurst Park (Subscription £7.50 for 10 issues includes inland post and packing).

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Our thanks to **Bingham Glass Ltd.** who sponsored the Match Ball for last Tuesday's Simod Cup-tie against Bournemouth.

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May we take this opportunity to congratulate the Owls on their success in recent games and hope that it continues today and for the rest of the season

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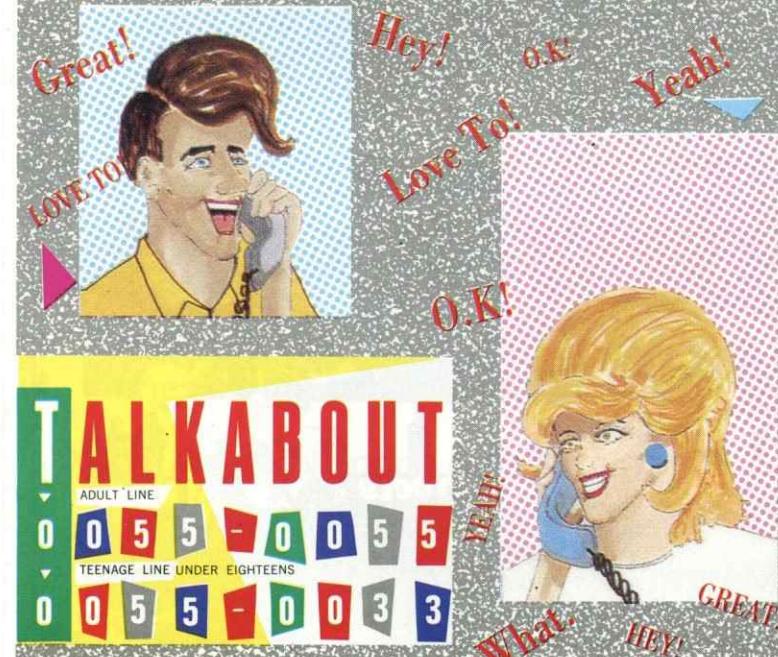
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PASSING BACK

WITH KEITH HOWARD

5 YEARS AGO

Injuries forced Wednesday to take the field at Shrewsbury with a strange looking attack. With big men McCulloch and Pearson injured, Tony Simmons played his first full match as partner to Bannister, but their normal style of play was negated by lack of height and rugged defenders and too often the forward ball was played straight back. Even so Wednesday were very sound at the back and looked like getting some reward for a workmanlike performance until Shrewsbury scored from a near post corner 11 minutes after half-time, to clinch the points.

Mick Lyons went forward, Mel Sterland made several raiding dashes and Paul Shirtliff made his first ever appearance replacing the ineffective Simmons but nothing fettered the combative home side.

Team: Bolder, Sterland, Bailey, Smith, Lyons, Shelton, Megson, Taylor, Bannister, Simmons (Paul Shirtliff), Mirocevic.

Today's visitors Luton Town travelled to Sunderland where a David Moss goal earned them a 1-1 draw.

10 YEARS AGO

In the Second Division match at Field Mill, Mansfield Town player-manager celebrated his 600th league appearance by leading his side to a much-needed victory over visitors, Luton Town. The scoreline was 3-1 with Hill scoring a last minute consolation goal for Luton.



TEAM UP WITH A FINLUX TELEVISION

Wednesday missed out in their bid to step out of the Third Division basement, beaten by one flash of opportunism at Oxford two minutes from time. It lit up a dark sombre match for Oxford but shattered Wednesday's hopes of climbing up the table although, there was no disputing the manner of Oxford's success. Les Taylor volleyed home a beauty from Fogg's cross and poor Chris Turner had no chance.

From the 4th minute when Turner had saved a penalty, the Owls gradually got a grip and gave a controlled, disciplined display often causing the home side problems, particularly from set pieces — until the final lapse.

Team: Turner, Walden, Rushbury, Dowd, Cusack, Mullen, Wylde, Prendergast, Tynan, Porterfield, Bradshaw.

20 YEARS AGO

One door into Europe was dramatically slammed on Wednesday when Stoke City knocked them out of the League Cup with a late counter punch in the Fourth Round Round Replay at the Victoria Ground.

After Gerry Young had reopened the door with an 80th minute equaliser following a Jim McCalliog free-kick, Stoke went straight down the field to snatch the winner.

It was tough justice on Wednesday who had dominated play for long periods despite falling behind in the 60th minute to a deflected volley.

Team: Springett, Smith, Megson, Mobley, Ellis, Young, Usher, Fantham, Ritchie, McCalliog, Eustace.

On their route to the Fourth Division Championship Luton Town entertained Workington and convincingly defeated the now non-league side 4-0.

PROGRAMME APPEAL

Following their success last season (£400 raised for the B.B.C. Children in need appeal) the Wirral Programme Club are asking for any programmes to be donated for them to put on a special list. The lists are available by sending a s.a.e. to Ian Runham, 3 Tansley Close, Newton, West Kirby, Wirral L48 9XH.

PROGRAMME FAIR

A Programme Fair will be held at the Riverside Suite on Sunday, 6th December from 11.00 a.m.-3 p.m.

PICTURES FROM THE PAST

A trio of Wednesday youngsters, Paul Shirtliff, John Pearson and Gordon Owen watch Pearson's header enter the net between Luton defenders Horton and Stephens in a 1981-2 Division Two fixture at Hillsborough. The match was incident packed and ended at 3-3 thanks to an injury time goal from Brian Stein. The draw helped Luton achieve Division One status, and the Owls missed out by one point.

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SIDELINES

With the 1987/88 season 91 days old, it's a good time to look at some of the happenings around the First Division since 15th August.

- On the opening day, the Arsenal v Liverpool game drew a crowd of 54,703 was bigger than any league attendance in the whole of the previous season. A week later in London only 4,229 saw Wimbledon play Oxford.
- 15th August as the first day of two subs in the league: in the First Division, Charlton were the first to use both, achieved by the 60th minute.
- Arsenal's 6-0 win over Portsmouth was the first time in 24 seasons that the Gunners had won by so many goals.
- Manchester United's 3-1 home win over Chelsea meant it was the first time since 1965 that the Londoners had lost a league match at Old Trafford.
- Tottenham established a club record of 13 consecutive home wins with a last minute penalty winner against Southampton. Spurs extended that run to 14 with victory against Wednesday but it came to a halt when Arsenal recovered from a first minute Claesen goal at White Hart Lane to win 2-1.
- Gary Bannister's three goals against Chelsea was his second hat-trick for Rangers against their West London rivals.
- Q.P.R.'s 2-0 home win over Luton was their first ever victory over Town on the Loftus Road plastic carpet.
- Newcastle's MacDonald missed his first penalty for the club when Chelsea's Niedzwiecki saved at Stamford Bridge.
- John Aldridge continued a run of scoring in every Liverpool league match this season until missing out in his team's 1-0 win at Luton on 24th October . . .



David Reeves . . . 3 goal debut.

to sign for Mansfield recently, junior striker David Reeves went on loan to Fourth Division Scunthorpe and within 48 hours had scored a league debut hat-trick. Ex-Owl Dave Rushbury moved into non-league soccer with Goole and Terry Curran signed for Grimsby — his twelfth league club!

Carl Shutt's move to Bristol City probably came as no real surprise to Wednesdayites, though many will always be sorry the striker couldn't maintain the scoring form that made him such a threat in the spring of 1986.

Carl — who scored on his full debut in October '85 — had a March and April he will never forget, scoring 11 goals in 14 games, including six goals in seven days. Less well known is the fact that in 1985/86 the Owls only lost two of the games in which he scored. True to form Carl scored twice on his debut for the Robins, although finishing on the losing side.

MEN OF THE MATCH

Tony Pyle, General Manager of Barnards, (left), and John Carnell, Works Director of Tinsley Wire (right) present their 'Men of the Match' awards to David Williams of Norwich and Wednesday's Nigel Pearson.



MONTY'S MOTORS THE NO. 1 DEALER

MARTIN HODGE

Matches seem to have gone by so quickly since we were last at Hillsborough: three away from home, and three wins.

We have been playing fairly well. At West Ham, we were very fortunate to get three points, but fortune evened itself out over the season. For example we murdered Newcastle but they got a flukey goal and won 1-0.

In the home match against Norwich, there was more than one goal in it for us. At Barnsley and Portsmouth, we deserved something out of both games.

Had we gone to West Ham three weeks ago, before we started to pick up results, then possibly we might have gone under.

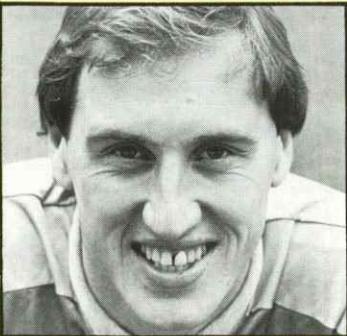
Certainly the commitment and defending, not just from defenders but from midfield and the front players, was superb.

Up until Friday there were 13 players injured as well. Four came through fitness tests on Saturday and the lads hadn't trained all week so we knew we faced a hard job.

Now we need to get things going. We'd be kidding ourselves if we thought that everything was now a bed of roses. It isn't. We have taken a step on a long road and there is a long way to go. It's certainly come as a welcome lift.

When we were suffering a slump, they were calling for everybody's heads. I made the point that if we all stuck together, we'd get through. Now we have started a bit to emerge from the dark period.

I couldn't really pick out individuals, because that wouldn't be fair on the rest of the side, but I think we have certainly had more of a team commitment than there was in the previous few months. I don't know why that is. We've had more squad players available lately whereas at times we have



been down to a bare 13, though we were struggling with injuries again before the West Ham game.

It would be nice to keep winning. The result at Barnsley was a great one; they were at home and had just beaten West Ham 5-2, and they were saying they weren't scared of us.

We went one up and weathered the storm. It was inevitable that they would not fancy going to Hillsborough and would put us under pressure. In the second half they hardly had a shot and we were much tighter.

Then we got the draw against Aston Villa. We have done well against them in the last few years so we'll be going to Villa Park on Wednesday looking to beat them.

Some people have said it's a hard draw, but I'd rather have Villa away than Everton or Arsenal away.

I hope Andy Blair is playing. He's had a bad injury, and there was talk that it might finish him. When he was here he was a fighter; a good lad, and a good pro. He had determination, which must have helped him come back.

After today's game, there is no league match for us next Saturday because of course the First Division has been reduced in size and each team has two blank dates during the season.

I suppose when you're doing well, you want to keep playing to maintain the momentum, but a break can also be welcome sometimes. Some clubs will like one if they have been playing two matches a week and if they have a bit of extra time to get injured players fit.

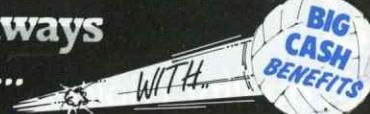
Bill Heap, chairman of the Supporters Club, died recently. It was a pity he left us, with us now doing so well. He would have liked to have seen all of the last four games.

We knew Bill well. He always presided over the annual presentation evening, and was to be seen around the club. I always remember when he made a speech he would say "to the Queen". He was a smashing bloke who will be sadly missed by all of us, and we would like to offer condolences to his relatives.



Nice to see Andy Blair back in action.

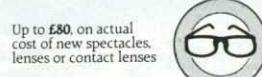
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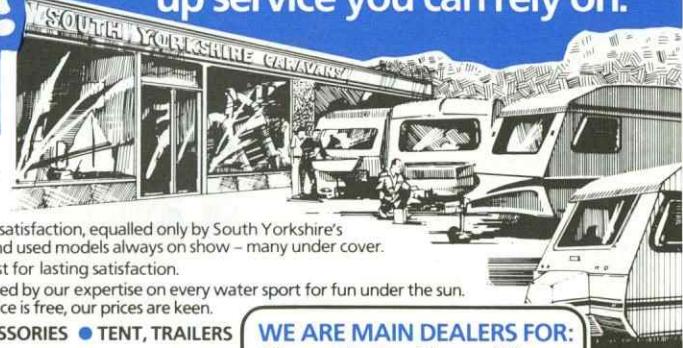
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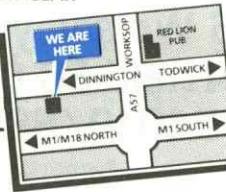
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WELL DONE NEIL

Congratulations to 12-year old Young Owl Neil Rodgers who this week received an award for his bravery from Princess Diana. Neil's prompt action a few months ago prevented further burns to his sister after her clothes had caught fire.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Please inform us at the Young Owls office.



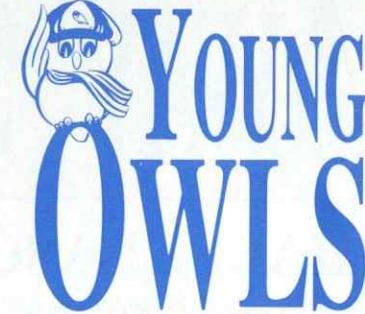
"SPORTACULAR SHINER"

Jim Williams sporting his black eye following a mishap during one of the Sportacular's football sessions.



'BACK A BOBBY' SPONSORED WALK

Few people are more aware of the plight of sick, handicapped and underprivileged children than the police officer and hardly a week passes without one scheme or another being organised by individual officers or groups at different stations to raise funds for unfortunate youngsters. This month however all personnel in South Yorkshire Police - serving officers, special constables, civilian staff and families, are being invited to become



Paul Hardy, Wayne Morgan, Andrew Melbourne, Stephen Moore.

The team have made an excellent start to the season, winning all their games to date. Thanks are extended to sponsor V. H. Maher, Skip Hire (tel: 726598).

If you fancy playing for next season's U-10 read the information on this page.

NEXT SEASON'S U-10 TEAM

Football sessions are being held in the S.W.F.C. Sports Hall on certain Saturday mornings for boys interested in representing the Young Owls U-10 team next season.

The next session will take place on Saturday, 12th December.

Meet at the Sports Hall gates 10.25 a.m. and arrange to be collected at 11.45 a.m.

Suitable ages coincide with J2 or M1 school years. i.e. Under-9, or 9 since 1.9.87. Boys a few months younger are also welcome to attend.

involved in a special event to raise cash for the B.B.C.'s 'Save the Children' fund.

With the consent and support of the five professional football clubs in the County, police personnel will take part in a ten-lap walk around the pitch at the club grounds - Oakwell - Barnsley, Belle Vue - Doncaster, Millmoor - Rotherham, Bramall Lane and Hillsborough - Sheffield.

While police personnel and their families taking part in the walk will be canvassing relatives and friends for sponsorship, the public are also

invited to sponsor their own Constable, or any officer from the specialised branches.

The big walk will start simultaneously at all five grounds at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday, 22nd November and continue until 4.00 p.m. During the afternoon, the police walkers will be joined by officials and members of the clubs' playing staff. Local residents and club supporters are invited to join the walk and help swell the fundraising by making a personal donation.

THE AWAY STRIP

TICKET DETAILS

ASTON VILLA (Away)

Wednesday, 18th November, 1987
Seats: £6.00 (available from ticket office). Standing: £3.50 (pay at turnstile). Both seating and standing are available on Match Day.

Q.P.R. (Home)

Saturday, 28th November, 1987
Tickets now on sale, normal match day prices.

INTER CITY OWL

ASTON VILLA

Wednesday, 18th November, 1987
Fare £4 (£3 Young Owls).
Depart 4.15 p.m. Expected return arrival approx. 11.30-11.45 p.m.
Book by 4.45 p.m. on Monday, 16th November to ensure a seat.

ARSENAL

Saturday, 5th December, 1987
Fare: £6.50/£5.50 Young Owls.
Depart 10.00 a.m., expected back approx 8.30 p.m. Book by 7.00 p.m., Thursday, 3rd December to ensure a ticket.



GUINNESS SOCCER '6' CHAMPIONSHIPS

G-Mex Centre, Manchester
7th, 8th and 9th December, 1987
Tickets will be available for Tuesday 8th November from the Ticket Office, Sheffield Wednesday. Prices: £5.00, £4.00, £3.00.

A limited number of tickets are available for the 'Family Enclosure'. Prices are as above with half-price reductions for Children and O.A.P.'s. For further information please phone the Soccer-6 Box Office on 0253-729421

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PHANTOM WATCHERS SPY ON OWLS

Every club in the country carries out its never-ending assessment of other teams and players.

Scouts and managers spend many evenings and weekends "spying" so that they know what is happening at other clubs. Inquiries from one club to another about possible transfer targets are commonplace.

So with all this activity going on, it is not surprising when gossip and titbits of information creep into the Press.

However, Howard Wilkinson for one wishes that some writers were better informed. The latest illogical story concerned Siggi Jonsson and Larry May. It was said in one paper that several clubs were watching them. But how could several clubs be watching them when injury has for some time prevented both from playing! Siggi has been out since September.

Another tale a week or two earlier had said that Larry May and Lawrie Madden were both for sale. Does that mean that Wednesday are to play with one centre half in league matches, and none at all in the Littlewoods Cup when Nigel Pearson is ineligible? Of course not!

It was a similar story concerning Brian Marwood, reported to be a big-money target for Arsenal despite the fact that he has been on the Owls' injured list for more than a month.

TONY KAY GETS HAMMERS MENTION

Former Owls midfield man Tony Kay got a mention in the Upton Park programme last week. Apparently he plays for Walford Boys Club in London, along with a few stars from the Eastenders T.V. programme, and they have a match against a side of football and cricket celebrities at Harlow Sports Centre on 6 December.

NOW THE BAD LUCK FOR DAVID HIRST

Since Wednesday were last at Hillsborough their fortunes have improved dramatically with successive wins at Barnsley, Portsmouth and West Ham.

David Hirst emerged dramatically to go on as sub and head a magnificent winner to send the Owls through in the Littlewoods Cup against his old club at Oakwell, and rightly received lavish publicity.

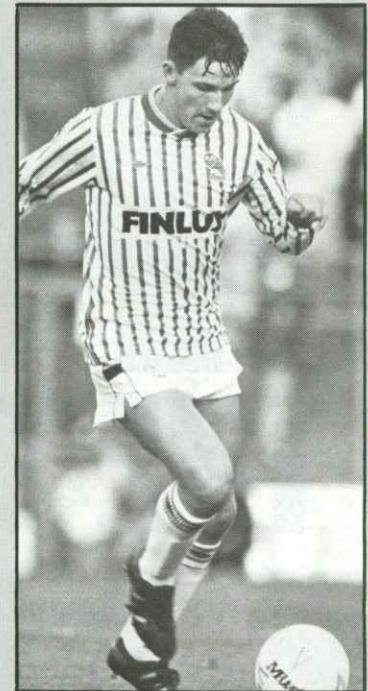
He got his deserved chance in the first team at Portsmouth, but how quickly football proved that it can be such a cruel game. It had looked as

TALKING POINTS



if he would get two games, at Pompey and West Ham, in which to stake a claim for a regular spot, but along came an injury and he had to miss the game at Upton Park.

So it was back to treatment table and the end to his glorious exploits for the time being. Bad luck again for the player who has had his share of injury setbacks and was prevented from playing at Forest this season by an injury suffered in an innocuous incident in training.



LEAGUE RESULTS POINT WAY TO WEMBLEY

When Wednesday notched that triumph at West Ham, they not only scored their fourth win on the trot but also set off on the road to Wembley.

Yes, that's right. Sixteen clubs will share £385,000 in a novel 11-a-side knockout tournament at Wembley on the weekend of 16-17 April, as part of the Football League's centenary celebrations.

The 16 clubs will qualify for their Wembley date on league performances. The First and Second Division qualifiers will be the teams

who gather the most points from their first 15 league matches from 1 November.

Third and Fourth Division qualifiers will be decided on points from their first 18 fixtures from the same date.

If teams are equal on points, goal difference and then goals for will decide.

Wednesday's win at Upton Park, the first of the qualifying period, gave them the perfect start in the quest for Wembley.

The event replaces the original plan to stage a six-a-side festival involving all 92 clubs in the league.

League secretary Graham Kelly explained: "When we looked at the projected budget, it did not stand up to bring 92 clubs to Wembley. We felt it would not have attracted the support to make it pay".

Eight clubs from the First Division, four from the Second and two each from the lower divisions, will compete at the league's money-spinning 100th birthday party.

The winners will receive £75,000, the same amount as the Littlewoods Cup winners.

The runners-up will take home £50,000, semi-finalists £30,000, quarter-finalists £20,000 and first round losers £15,000. The event will be sponsored by Mercantile Credit, who backed the league's centenary showpiece game against a Rest of the World XI at Wembley in August.

What makes the new tourney such an attractive proposition is that teams who made bad starts to the season, such as Wednesday, have the chance to start with a clean sheet, beginning on 1 November.

Once at Wembley, the 16 will face a hectic weekend. The first and second round matches on the Saturday will be 20 minutes each way while the semi-finals and finals on Sunday will be 30 minutes each way.

Drawn matches will be decided by the team who win the most corners. If they are still level then there will be a penalty shoot-out.

Another fun date for Wednesday will be 8 December, when they take part in the Guinness Six-a-Side Championship at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester, hoping to qualify for the finals the following evening.



Shake pal! Skipper Mel Sterland congratulates Nigel Pearson on his goal against Norwich City.

NIGEL GIVES CLUB VALUE FOR MONEY

Rarely can a new signing have been such an instant hit as Nigel Pearson, the club's £250,000 centre half bought from Shrewsbury.

Once again he had a fine game last week, at West Ham, in a formidable

centre-defence partnership with Lawrie Madden.

One incident typified the Pearson spirit. Down injured, he got up after treatment and straight away was clenching his fists and shouting at colleagues, urging them on.

He was of course outstanding in his home debut, against Norwich, was one of the Owls' best performers at Portsmouth, and then at Upton Park was an important member of a tenacious defence.

OWLS ONE OF BIG CLUBS — ALAN BALL

Wednesday's recent results seem to bear out what Portsmouth manager Alan Ball was saying in the match programme when the Owls went to Pompey.

Said Ball: "Sheffield Wednesday haven't had the best of starts but I believe their position in the table is false.

"To me, they'll always be one of the big clubs, and I think it is only a matter of time before they start proving that again."

Wednesday wasted no time in proving it, that very day beating Ball's men 2-1. And they followed that with victory at West Ham.

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WITH ALAN BIGGS



Nigel Worthington's Hillsborough highlights are bitter-sweet — or, as he more accurately calls them, "sweet and sour."

Put in the original order, Nigel might have been left with a little more to savour, like an F.A. Cup semi-final or even an appearance at Wembley. Instead, he has to reflect on a quarter final triumph that was the prelude to personal disaster. There can be no better example of the uncertainties facing professional footballers than what happened to Worthington in March 1986.

First, he scored a rare and memorable goal to steer Wednesday towards a Villa Park semi-final against Everton . . . then he was ruled out through injury. All within the space of 17 days. And the semi was only a week away when Worthington's season was ended by knee ligament damage suffered against Liverpool at Hillsborough.

But the West Ham clash still ranks high among a feast of comparatively recent memories. As a match, it would surely stand comparison with any seen at this famous ground. And for Worthington personally the glow of a goal — with his "wrong" foot and from the edge of the area — will never fade away.

"It was special for two reasons," he remembers. "For a start, it's not very often I score — and to knock one in with my right foot gave me extra pleasure. Basically, I struck it and God guided it!"



Nigel's typically self-effacing humour moves him to admit: "You could say that I normally think twice when the ball is on my right foot. But that night everything was being played at 100 miles per hour and I had no time to think."

Equally important was Nigel's shackling midfield role, in the absence of Gary Shelton, against a highly-talented — and combative — West Ham side.

"I thought everybody on the pitch played well. It was a real ding-dong cup-tie with an electric atmosphere. We let West Ham back into the game a bit after Carl Shutt scored our second and looked as if we might be up against it when Tony Cottee pulled one back. But we coped quite easily in the end."

Then came Worthington's sad sequel and a wretched afternoon

spent at home on semi-final day. "I wasn't allowed to go to Villa Park because Alan Smith wanted me to stay behind and rest the injury. I was very disappointed and it was agonizing having to sit and listen to the match on radio."

"But the decision was for the best. The World Cup was coming up and by not risking any aggravation to the injury I was able to get fit just in time."

Now life is sweet again for the Northern Ireland international who has become one of the pillars of Howard Wilkinson's managerial reign.



MAGIC MOMENTS

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

1 MARTIN HODGE 6 GARY MEGSON 11 TONY GALVIN
2 WAYNE JACOBS 7 MARK PROCTOR 12 CARL BRADSHAW
3 NIGEL WORTHINGTON 8 MARK CHAMBERLAIN 14 GREGG FEE
4 NIGEL PEARSON 9 LEE CHAPMAN SCORERS
5 LAWRIE MADDEN 10 COLIN WEST



Referee R. Bridges Linesmen A. Cale (Yellow/Red Trim) D. M. Charnley (Yellow)
Mascot Glenn Hardy

MATCH BALL **WOOD & WRAGG**

LUTON TOWN

1 LES SEALEY 6 MAL DONAGHY 11 CHUK NWAJIOBI
2 TIM BREAKER 7 ROBERT WILSON 12
3 ASHLEY GRIMES 8 BRIAN STEIN 14
4 DARREN McDONOUGH 9 IAN ALLINSON SCORERS
5 STEVE FOSTER 10 MARK STEIN

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