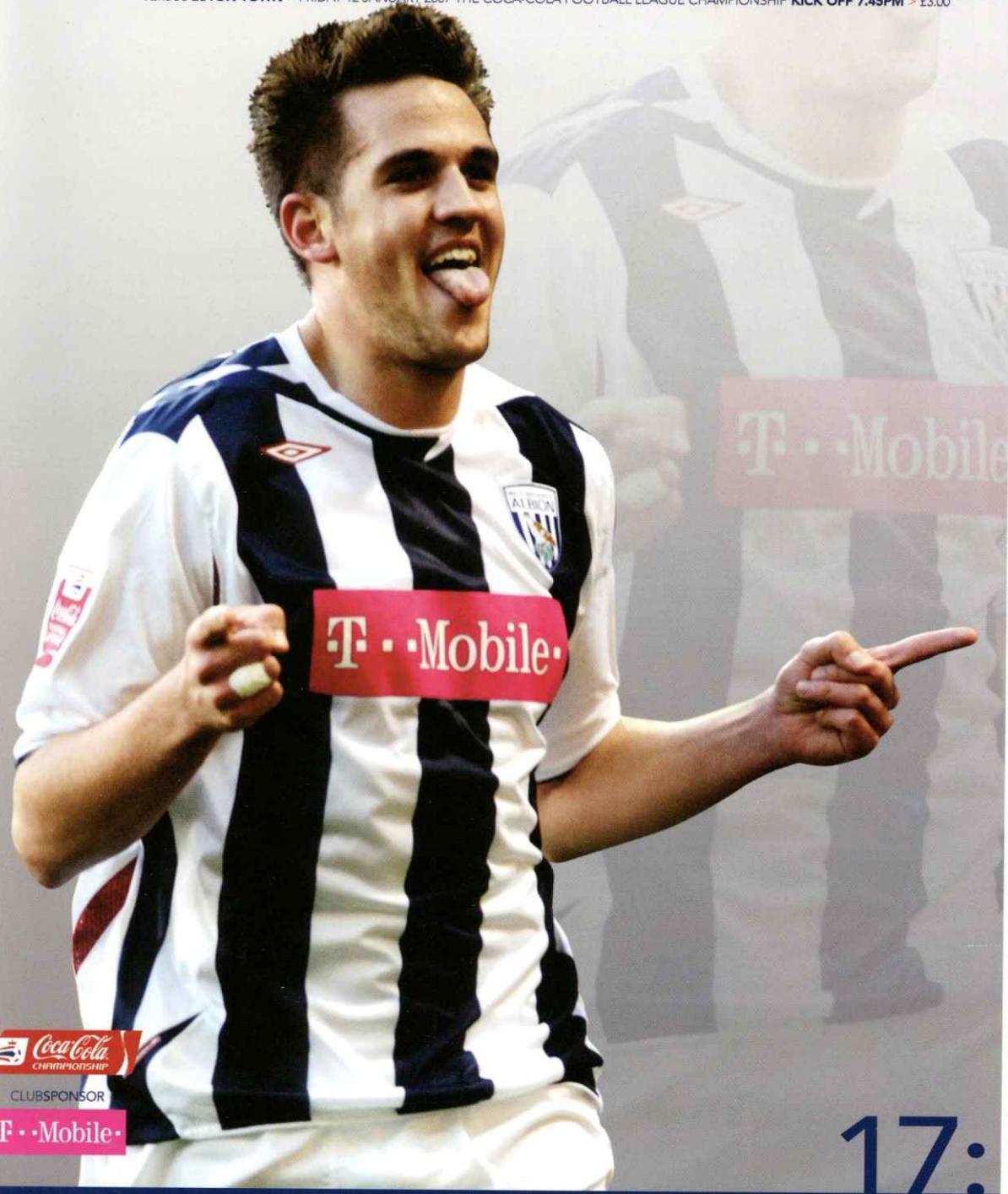


WEST BROMWICH ALBION OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE 2006/07

ALBION

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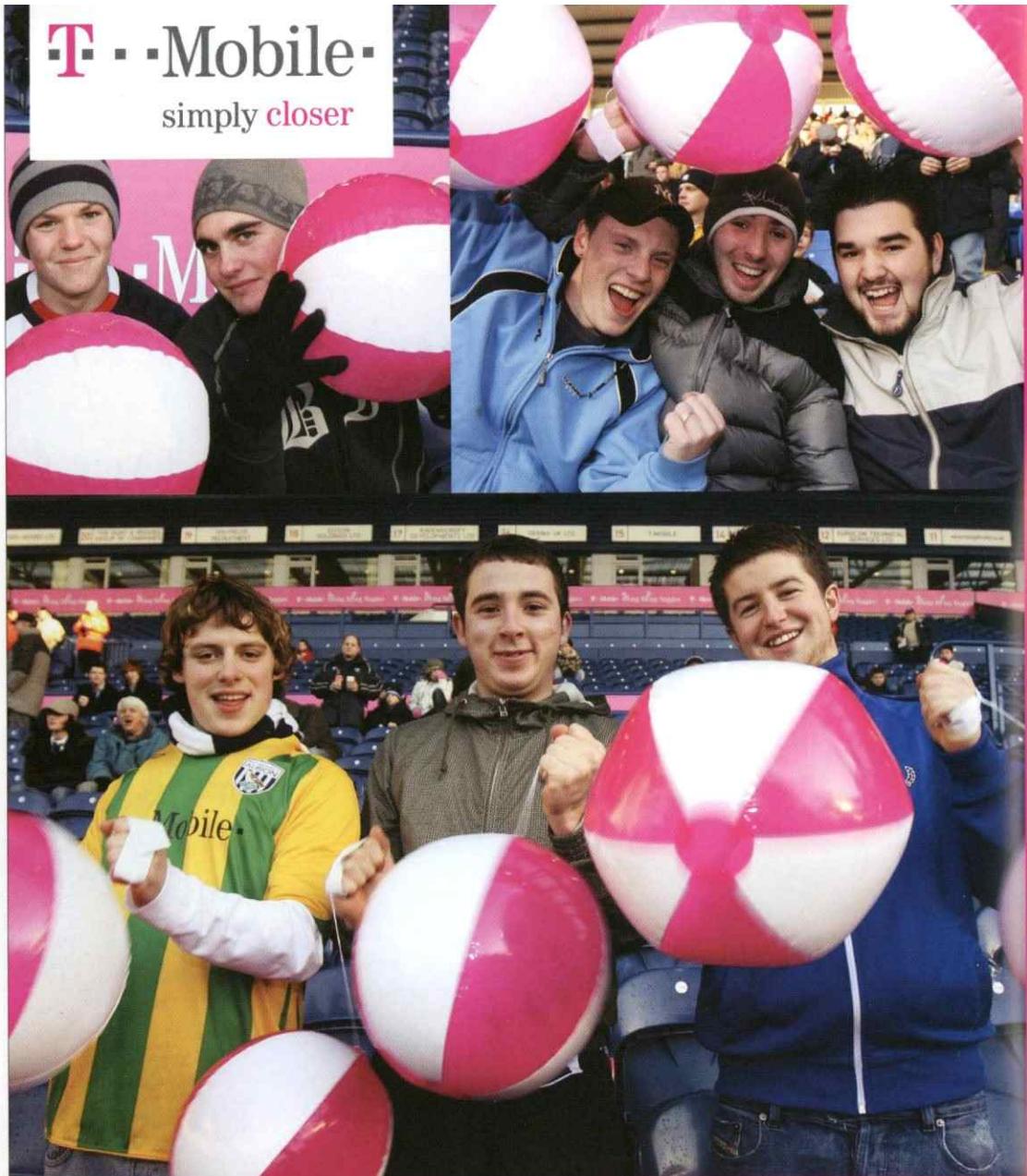
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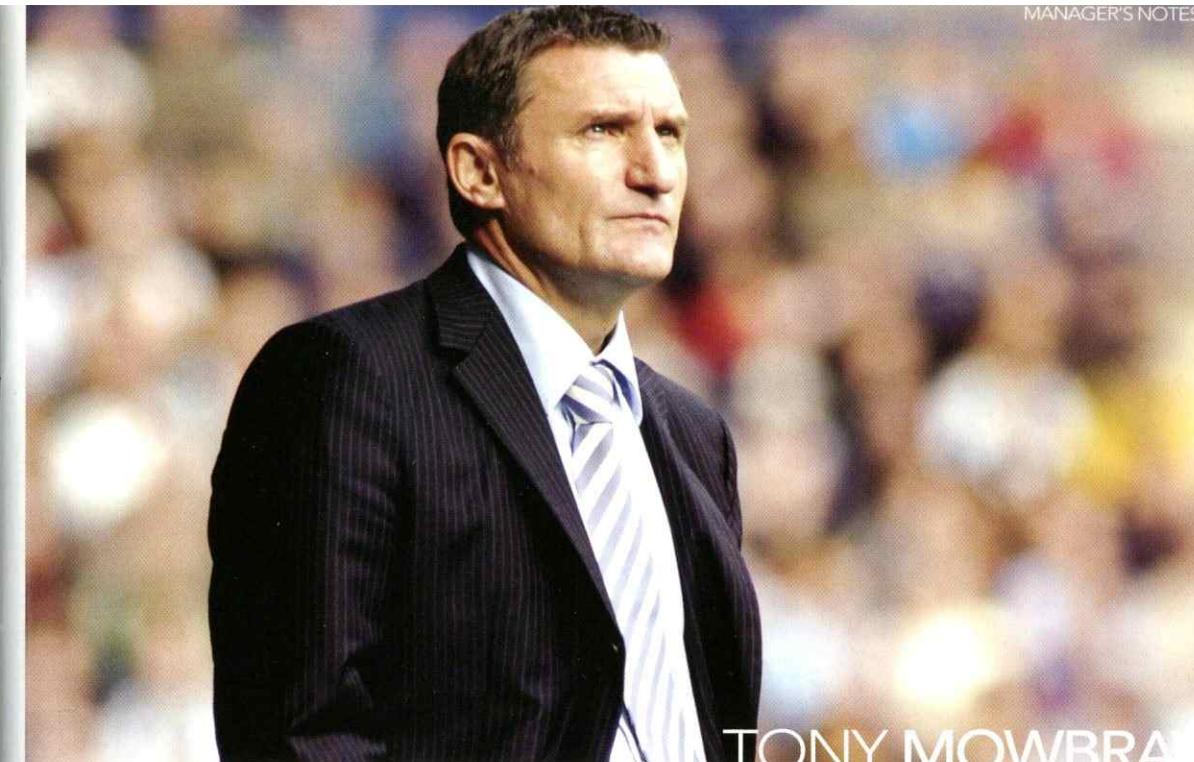


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TONY MOWBRAY



Good evening everybody and welcome to another game here at The Hawthorns, hard on the heels of our FA Cup win over Leeds United last Saturday.

Once again, we showed that we can be very creative and that we can score goals on our own pitch and we played particularly well in the first half an hour when we went two goals up. It's one of the clichés in the game that 2-0 is a dangerous scoreline because you know the next goal is crucial.

We took our foot off the gas a little bit. They had some chances, as we did, and Russell pulled off some good saves. If Leeds had got the next goal kicking towards their own fans in the second half, it would have given them a bit of momentum, but thankfully, we got the third goal and put the game to bed.

We also had the opportunity to give Robert Koren a chance to come on as a substitute and I'd like to welcome him to the football club. He passes the ball very economically and simply. He has a great humility about his passing - if somebody is in a better position he'll pass it to him. That's something we need to improve on.

I've spoken before about the balance of the team and we saw against Leeds that our biggest strengths can, at times, be our biggest weaknesses. We don't have a player in the Roy Keane mould in midfield. All of our players are naturally forward-thinking but we do need that different option for days, especially away from home, when the game becomes more of a physical battle than a footballing one.

As other sides have shown, bringing in a defensively minded midfielder doesn't mean you sacrifice creativity, because we already have plenty of that, especially in wide areas. But having that sense of balance that creates a properly functioning team is crucial if we want to achieve our aims in the future.

Creating a good atmosphere at home is also important and there's been no shortage of that in recent weeks. Tonight, the Club sponsor T-Mobile are providing some additional support because they want to get the stadium boinging. Their staff will be handing out beach balls around the ground so hopefully we can give you all something to boing about with our performance on the field.

Enjoy the game

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1919/20

FOOTBALL LEAGUE RUNNERS-UP:

1924/25, 1953/54

FA CUP WINNERS:

1887/88, 1891/92, 1930/31, 1953/54, 1967/68

FA CUP FINALISTS:

1885/86, 1886/87, 1894/95, 1911/12, 1934/35

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP WINNERS:

1965/66

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP FINALISTS:

1966/67, 1969/70

FA YOUTH CUP WINNERS:

1975/76

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ALBIONWORLD



TIPTON FOR THE TOP

Roy Tipton is a fairly bizarre Baggie, born in the US, now living in Florida and with no obvious Albion connections other than the Black Country connection with the surname. Roy and son Brad came to visit the Shrine back in 2004 for the promotion game against Bradford, so let's hope they'll be doing likewise when Barnsley come here next May. Keep flying the flag Roy - the stripes, not the stars...

West Bromwich Albion Matchday Magazine

Designed & Produced by

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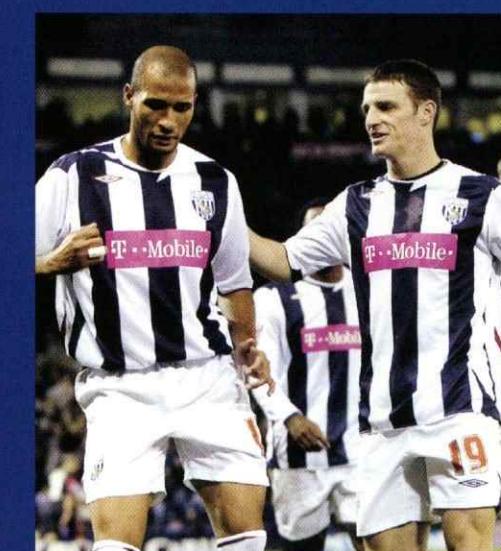


IT'S ACADEMIC

Over 50 children from Whittington F.C. recently attended a special coaching session held at West Bromwich Albion's Academy. The session took place at Albion's state of the art indoor training facility under the watchful eye of Kevin Dove, West Brom's Assistant Recruitment Officer. The children, aged 5-11, were able to enjoy skills training and matches followed by a brief behind-the-scenes look at The Hawthorns and a visit to the Club shop.

Whittington F.C. has enjoyed development links with West Brom for over 5 years. The link began thanks to the involvement of former Baggies star Paul Agnew, who coaches with the Club. The special association has allowed a number of

Steve Kirk, Chairman of Whittington, said, "We are very proud of our strong links with West Bromwich Albion and are very grateful to Dan Ashworth, Steve Hopcroft and the rest of the Albion recruitment staff for their continued support. It was great to see so many youngsters enjoying their experience of the excellent Academy facilities".

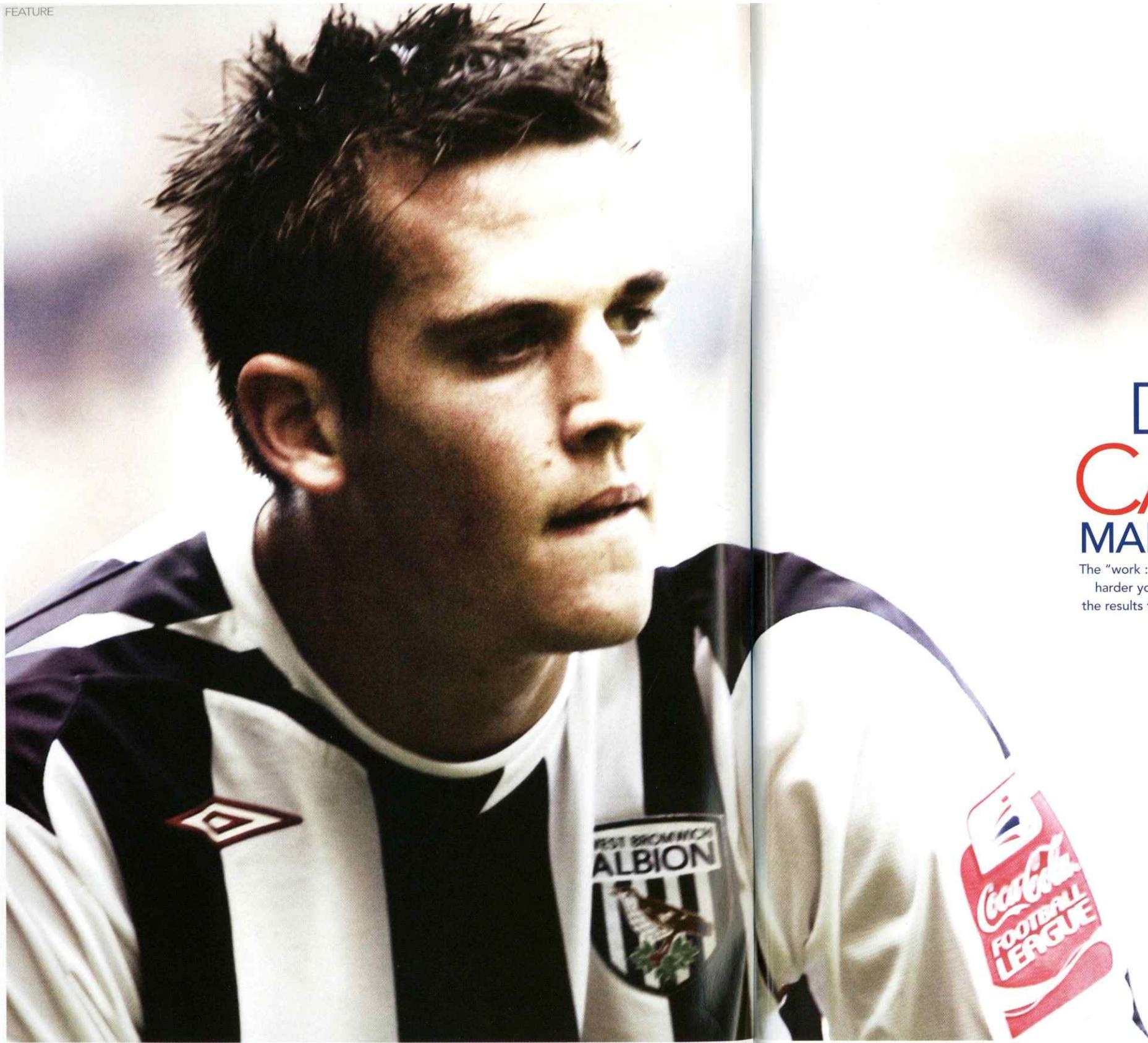


VOTE ALBION

The Football League Awards are back and this season fans can have their say on which Football League players should make FourFourTwo's prestigious Top 50 list. Fans wishing to vote for the players they believe should be in the reckoning for a place in the Top 50 should visit www.fourfourtwo.com. The votes will be counted and a shortlist drawn up for an expert panel to judge.

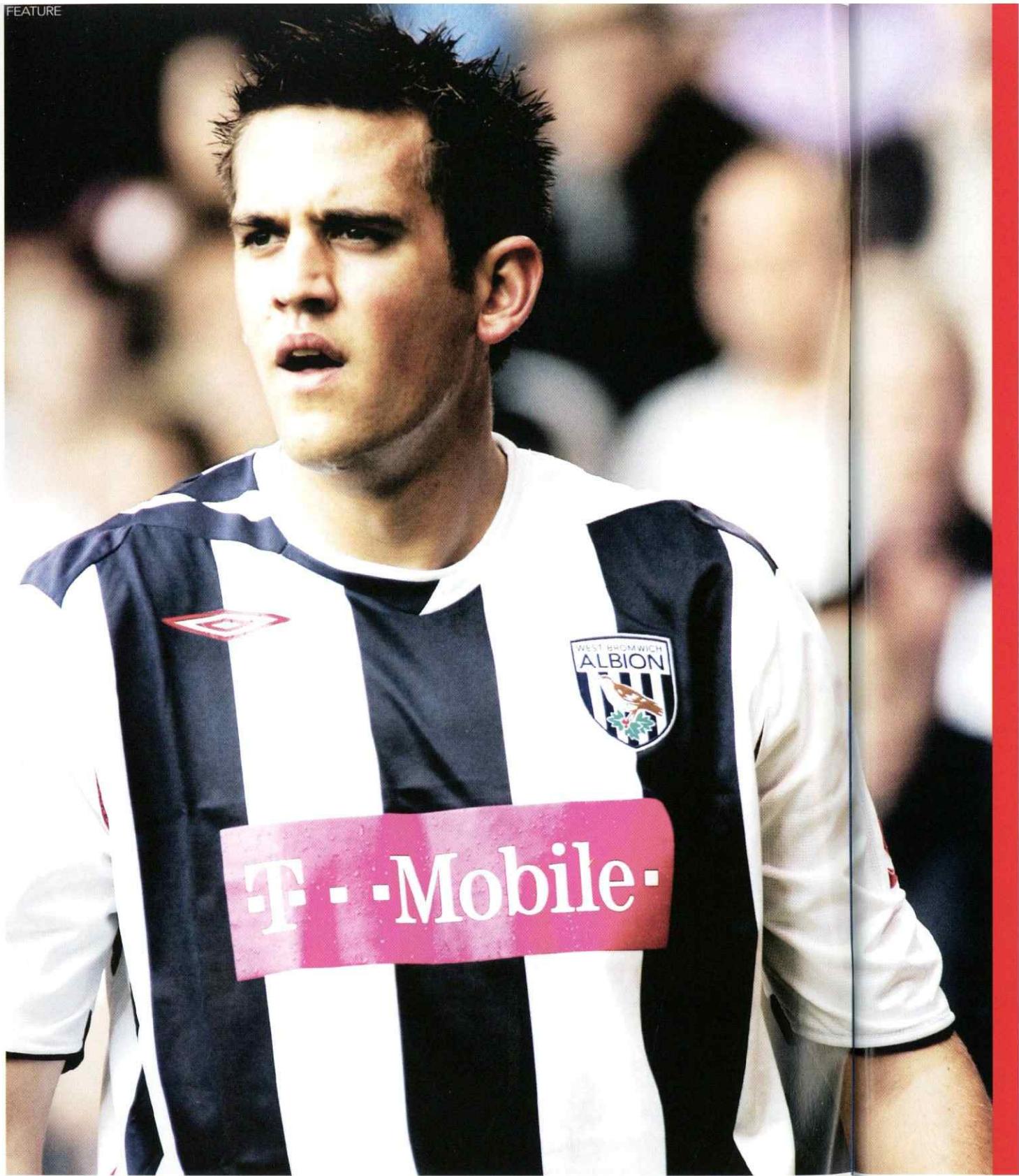
Everybody who votes on the website will be entered into a draw to win tickets to The Football League Awards, to see the FourFourTwo Top 50 Football League players announced at the awards evening at London's Grosvenor Hotel on 4th March 2007.

To find out more about The Football League Awards visit www.footballleagueawards.com. For a list of the people to vote for, Albion's squad list is on the back of the programme.



DARREN CARTER MAN AT WORK...

The "work : results" equation is a pretty simple one. The harder you work, the better the results. In which case, the results from Darren Carter are just going to keep on getting better and better...



One of the key messages that Tony Mowbray has persistently preached since he took on the job as Albion's manager is that if a team is to take shape and to grow, then the players that make up the components must have some humility. They must respect one another and respect this football club. They must also respect the game of football. It's a very simple game, yet an endlessly varied one. It's a game that nobody, not even Pele, Cruyff or Maradona has totally mastered such is its quixotic nature. If you want to improve, you have to accept that the game will always be bigger than you, that it will always have something new to show you, a new lesson to give, new wisdom to impart. If you think you're the big man, bigger than the game, you're going backwards, you're not learning, you're wasting everyone's time and effort and money.

One of the encouraging facets about this squad as it morphs into the future is that there is a core of hard working, honest professionals here, players who genuinely have an appetite to improve, who are willing to work and work at their game, to listen to good advice, to try new ideas. Whatever the transient nature of this week's result, that work ethic, that desire will stand us in good stead, long term benefits will come from it.

Darren Carter is one of the most involved students in this class of '07, a footballer who genuinely wants to do well for this football club, who wants to apply himself, who has a thirst for knowledge. Anyone who saw him strike that winner against Arsenal last term knows that he has an educated left foot, but he knows that the rest of his game needs to come up to that same university standard. >



He's clearly relishing the challenges being thrown down by the coaching staff and there's a sense that for the first time in his career, he's being given the right kind of messages, messages that will channel his enthusiasm and his love for the game in the right direction. As Tony Mowbray said recently, "Darren is a great lad because he's honest. He wants to learn. But he's so honest, he's so enthusiastic that sometimes he does too much work on the field. He wants to be perpetual motion, but there are times when you're better served by standing still. He wants to learn, he's open to ideas, and that's what you want in a footballer".

For his part, Darren is enjoying the chance to work on the fine print of his game. "When you get into the season, it's very hard for managers sometimes to try to find the time to work with individuals on specific things because the games come so thick and fast and you're having to concentrate more on the team than on anything else. But since the gaffer's come in, from the get go he called me in and said that he wanted to work hard with me to make me become a better footballer. That's what I wanted to hear. In training he'll take you to one side and give you little pointers, talk to you about your own game and have a discussion about it and that's great, I really like that because all I want to do is get better at my job."

"We use the video replay a lot in the training ground and that's fantastic, I don't think there's anything better as a player than coming in and watching something from a game that highlights what you've done. In the game it's constantly moving, you can't stop to dwell on something, so to sit and analyse a piece of action, to see what other options you had, what you did well, what you could have done better, that's a great tool. That's not just limited to me, that's the gaffer's approach to all the lads and you can't ask for more than that, a manager who wants to help you improve."

Darren is realistic enough to appreciate that for him, coming to The Hawthorns was always going to be a tougher job than a player coming to us

from up north. Wolves and Villa might be our closest rivals, but we've got a healthy suspicion of the Bluenoses as well.

"It has been difficult at times. When I came in to play here, I had high expectations of myself and what I could do in the Premiership. Last season was a topsy turvy one, I didn't find my best form on a consistent enough basis, but I think you could say that about the team as a whole – that's why we ended up being relegated. I went away in the summer and thought about my game, my preparation, all those things because I wanted to come back and do better, to find that consistency and to be a part of putting things right for the club and everyone connected with it. It's up to us to put last season right and the only way to do that is by getting promoted."

"When you move from a neighbouring club, that does bring its own problems because you're coming over from the enemy if you like. It is a different situation though being a professional footballer to being a fan. It's very rare that players stay with a club throughout their career any more, so where a supporter stays with their team for life, players get bought and sold and you have to deal with that in a professional way."

"I'm sure supporters look at me and think that just because my dad brought me up as a Birmingham fan, that will always be the team I follow, but it's the same as any footballer in any dressing room in the country. All I did was what kids always do, I supported my local team and from there, I was lucky enough to have a playing association with them which was nice, I came through the ranks, go promoted, played in the Premier League with them. So of course I'll always have a soft spot for them, I'll look out for their results, they're my childhood team. I'd be very pleased if they finished second in the Championship this season, as long as it's us that's above them. My career was best served by moving on from there, Albion offered me a great opportunity and I'm 100% focused on doing everything I can to get us back in the Premier League. I want to be part of this club going places. Albion is my only focus now, simple as that."

“WE KNOW AS A GROUP OF PLAYERS THAT GETTING PROMOTED IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE, BUT WHEN YOU ARE INSTALLED AS FAVOURITES, THE SLIGHTEST SLIP AND PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SHOOT AT YOU, SO THAT'S SOMETHING NEW TO COPE WITH.”



After an admittedly patchy first season, Darren has run into some decent form this term, most notably as the Baggies chalked up our only two away wins of the campaign to date. But typical of the misfortunes that have dogged him over the last 18 months, just as he was really motoring, he was stopped dead in his tracks by a refereeing decision that was questionable to say the least.

“I was really upset with the booking I got at Ipswich because it was pretty harsh. We were 5-1 up, a couple of minutes to go, and I went past the goalkeeper and smashed it in, started celebrating. I didn't hear the whistle, I genuinely thought I'd scored. Then I turned round to see the referee waving at me and then he showed me the yellow card. To me, it's just a bit of common sense. You're not going to be wasting time when you're 5-1 up with a few minutes to go are you? But that meant I got a suspension, I missed the Wolves game and then you're fighting to get back in the team. It upset my rhythm a bit because I'd just started to settle into the centre of midfield with Jono Greening, and then when I did get back, I got hamstring injury which set me back again. It was frustrating, but all you can do is get your head down, work hard and now I'm striving to get back to that level of performance again.

“Jono's a very mature footballer, he understands where he needs to be on the field, so that if I go forward, he drops in to balance off and do the defensive side. He's been accustomed to playing wide for us but he's got no problem playing in the centre as he has over the last few months. I've thoroughly enjoyed playing alongside him in there because he's a very creative player. We work hard to complement one another, but it's still a learning thing for us.”

If you take a look at the Carter CV, it's impressive, especially when you look at his achievements in

this division. Two seasons, two promotions, the first at Birmingham when he rifled in the penalty that took them up, and then at Sunderland where he had a spell on loan. That's very useful experience when things get down to the wire.

“I've gone through promotion a couple of times now, so hopefully I can make it three this season. It's very different this year to those previous times. When I was at Birmingham, it was my first season so I was more worried about that than anything else. Steve Bruce had come in part way through the season, the team was struggling in the lower half of the table, so there was really no expectation that we would get up, it was a last minute thing where we went on a great run in the second half of the season and catapulted ourselves into the play-offs and then the Premier League at the last moment.

“Going to Sunderland when I did, they were expecting be in amongst it but they were never the favourites to go back up, the play-offs were the thing, so it gave us a bit more freedom. This year is obviously different because right from the get go, people have said we should be in the top two, we should be winning the division, that automatic promotion is the minimum. We know as a group of players that it's easier said than done, but when you are installed as favourites, the slightest slip and people are going to shoot at you, so that's something new to cope with.”

“There are times this year when the smallest negatives have been blown up and straight away you're in a crisis. We understand that, everybody in this league wants to see teams like us, Birmingham and Sunderland struggle, that's the nature of the game. People see us as a big scalp and we talk about that every week, the fact that teams are especially fired up for playing against us. Going from being underdogs all through last year to being a team that is expected to win every week is

“ I’VE SCORED A FEW NOW BUT NOT AS MANY AS I’D LIKE. THE GOAL AGAINST ARSENAL WAS SPECIAL OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE IT WAS MY FIRST FOR THE CLUB, AGAINST ONE OF THE BEST TEAMS IN EUROPE AND IT WON THE GAME, BUT I ENJOYED THE ONE I GOT AT ORIENT AS WELL. ”

difficult, it's a big change psychologically. We haven't been consistent enough, our away form has been poor, though I think the last few weeks, the game against Southend aside, we've started to handle it better. Hopefully, we can get back to doing that at Leeds next weekend.

"The positive angle for us is that there is still much more to come from us as a team but we're still in the top six and not that far behind the top two. It's hard to believe you can be fifth having only won two away from home. We will resolve that as the season goes, I'm sure of that, and if we can maintain our home form, we still have a great opportunity this year. From being down in 10th a month ago, we climbed back up to 5th, so there's no reason we can't climb a lot higher yet. Everybody says it, but it's true – this is a league where any team can beat any other on their day, so the teams above us will lose points. What we have to do is get our away record right, focus on ourselves, and go right back on a good run like we had in December, starting with tonight's game."

Tonight's game against Luton brings to mind one of Darren's assets, his clean striking of the ball, something which kept us in a game we were in danger of losing at Kenilworth Road.

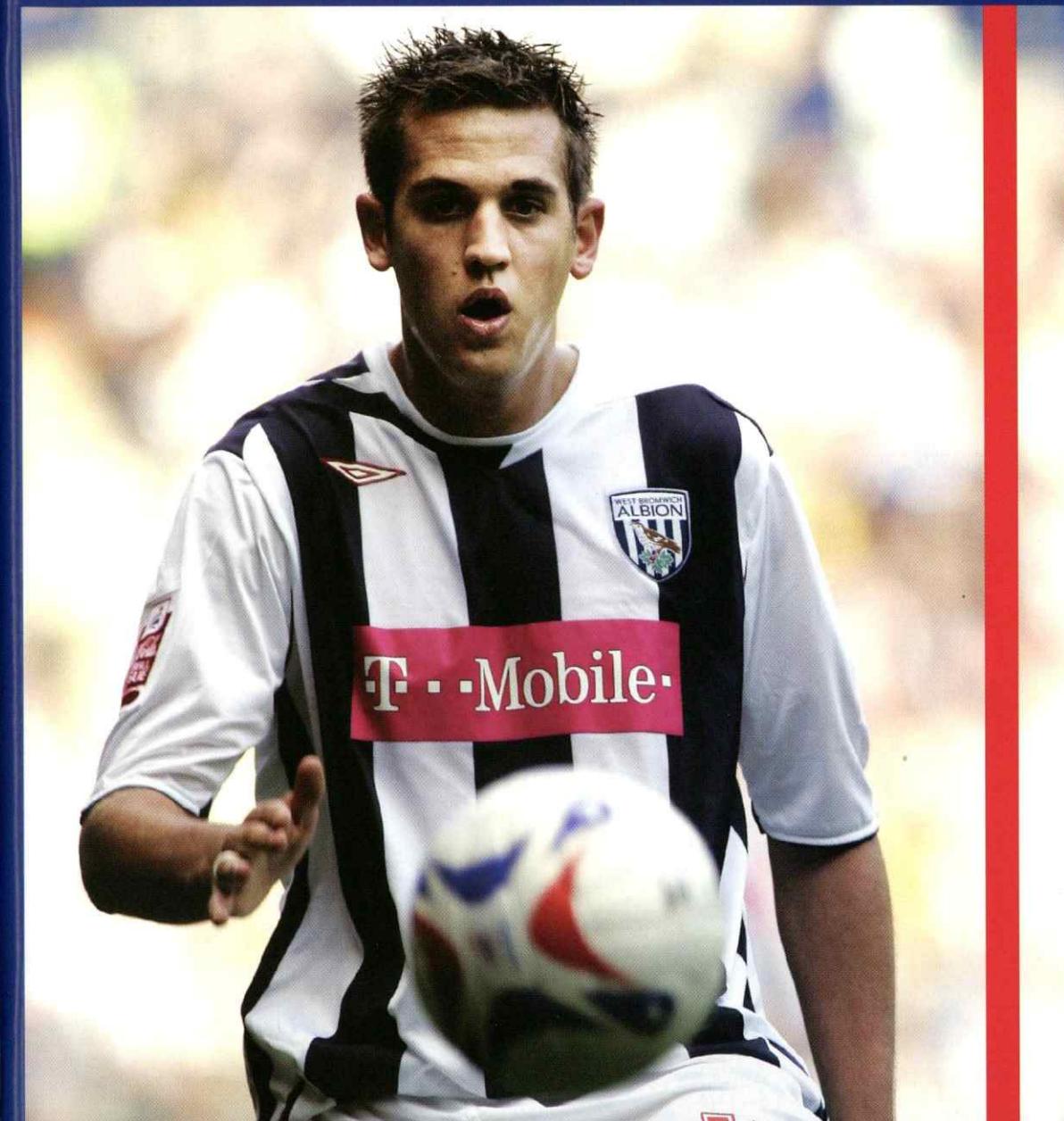
"I've scored a few decent goals here and up to the one against Burnley, I was wondering if I was ever going to get a tap in. It was an important goal at Kenilworth Road because that was a tough game, a very hot day, they got on top at the start and scored early on, and looked like they'd go on from there. To be fair, my goal came against the run of play but it just kept us in there and we were much better in the second half and

ended up nearly winning it when we had that goal disallowed in the last few seconds.

"That game summed us up away from home unfortunately, we were slow to get started and then in the second half, it's a different team and we play a lot better, but too often we're having to chase things by then. And some of it comes back to expectations as well. A lot of people think we should just be going out against teams like Luton and beating them just because we're West Brom, but I think that shows a lack of respect for the teams in this division. Whenever you go away from home, of course we want all three points, but a draw at Kenilworth Road was a decent result because they were in good form, they've got a good home record, it's a tight stadium with the crowd on top of you. You don't just turn up and roll teams like that over, you have to work for anything you get. On a personal level, it was great to get the goal, I promised Curtis I'd get one for him because he had to miss the game with injury, so it was nice to deliver on that.

"I've scored a few now but not as many as I'd like. The goal against Arsenal was special obviously because it was my first for the club, against one of the best teams in Europe and it won the game, but I enjoyed the one I got at Orient as well. It was a cross from Jono and I was sure it was going to drift over everybody to the back post. I got into position and I always feel comfortable striking the ball on the volley and just connected with it as sweet as a nut. It was great that it was on the telly as well so I could phone all my mates and say, "Did you see that!" It's great to score goals like that one, but at the moment, I'd just like to score any goal from any distance, just so long as it gets us some points."

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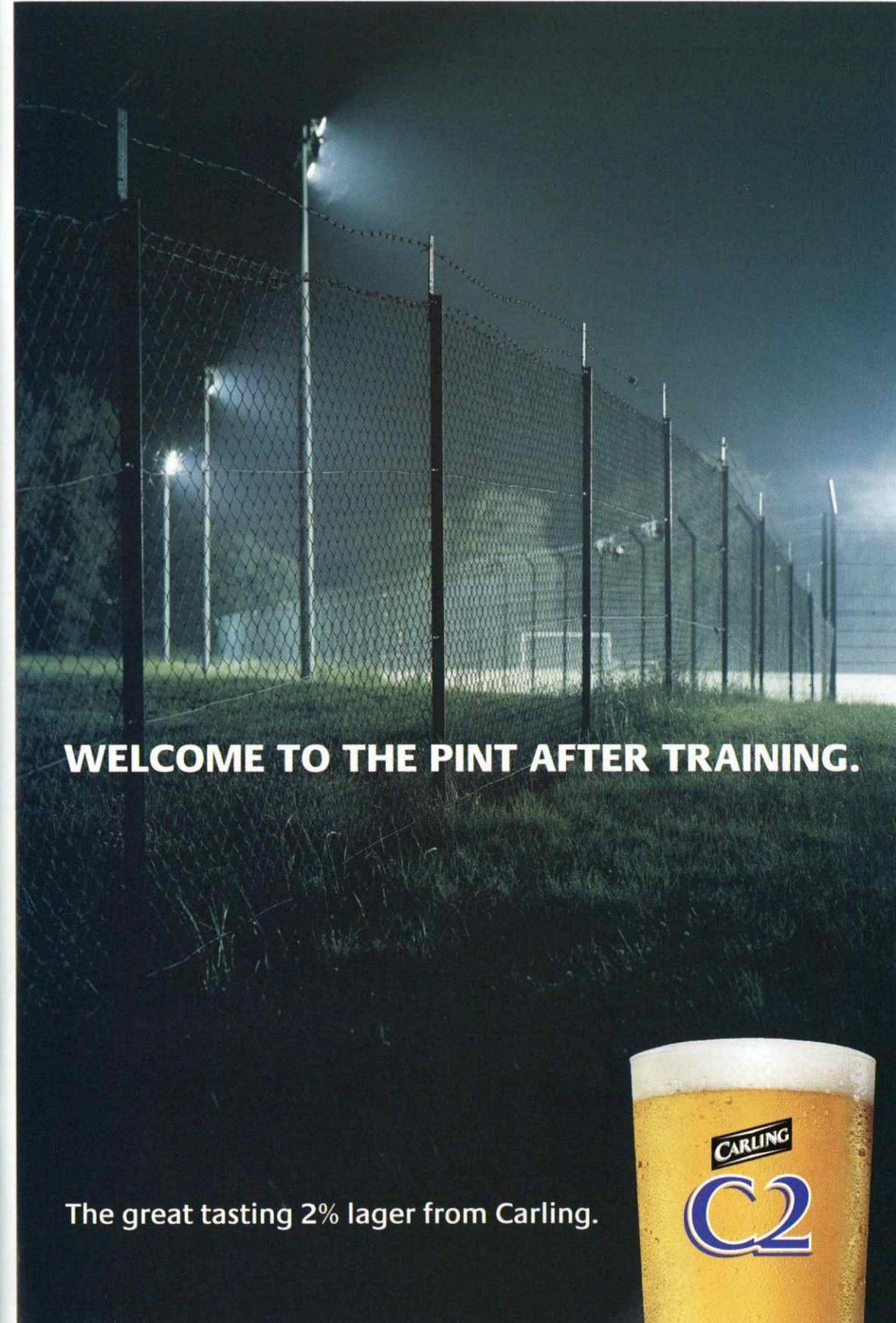




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ALBION 4 PRESTON NORTH END 2

COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP
The Hawthorns, Tuesday 26th December 2006
Attendance: 22,905
Photos: Paul Broadrick

If you want goals, come to The Hawthorns. That's the way things have been in the last few months and there's no reason to believe that the advent of 2007 is going to bring us anything different. That's the way Tony Mowbray wants his team to play, those are the kind of players that we have. Attack, attack, that's the blueprint for these Baggies.

And 20 second-half minutes showed why, in our current configuration, attack is very much the best form of defence, because when we looked to take the sting out of the game against ten men Preston, our football lacked the confidence, the cohesion and the conviction that it had had in the first period when we had Preston on the floor with our foot on their windpipe. This team can defend out of necessity, but it attacks with belief.

Perhaps the transfer window, either in January or in the summer, will give us greater assurance when we're on the back foot. Perhaps it will bring us a lynchpin who will organize, win tackles and shield. But it won't change our ethos, the ethos that Mowbray espouses all the time: "When you can play, you must play". To that, recent games show we can add the axiom, "Need character? Got character!"

Albion needed to find that as Preston did to us what we did to Plymouth Argyle, claw back a two goal deficit to go level. But we had to withstand more pressure than Argyle did. The pressure that comes from a home crowd that craves success, the pressure of being hauled back by a team down to ten men and the extra disappointment that failing to beat them brings, the pressure of having to beat a promotion rival. The pressure of expectation. A pressure we dealt with by attacking again.

Which is how we started, Jason Koumas lighting up Christmas with a moment of sublime control, taking down a long pass with nonchalance, cutting inside Alexander then curling a perfectly flighted shot into the far corner, just far enough away from the flailing Nash, close to getting a saving touch. But not close enough. 1-0.

Preston looked a useful unit, illustrating that their lofty league position is no fluke, Pugh almost getting them back into the game with a ferocious shot that flew just over from 20 yards. Nugent should have done better after a clever Dichio lay-off allowed McKenna to feed him, but the England Under-21 shot just over. Then it was McKenna himself, latching onto a ball that sat up nicely, lashing a volley at goal, Russell Hoult making a terrific one handed save away to his right.



But while Preston sought the equaliser, we were perennially dangerous on the break. Dio Kamara had put one shot wide from the edge of the box, but his goal was not much longer in coming. The Throstles flew out of defence from a Preston corner, Darren Carter bringing the ball out and finding Curtis Davies on the left wing – total football or what? The skipper picked out his man in the box and Kamara rifled the ball past Nash.

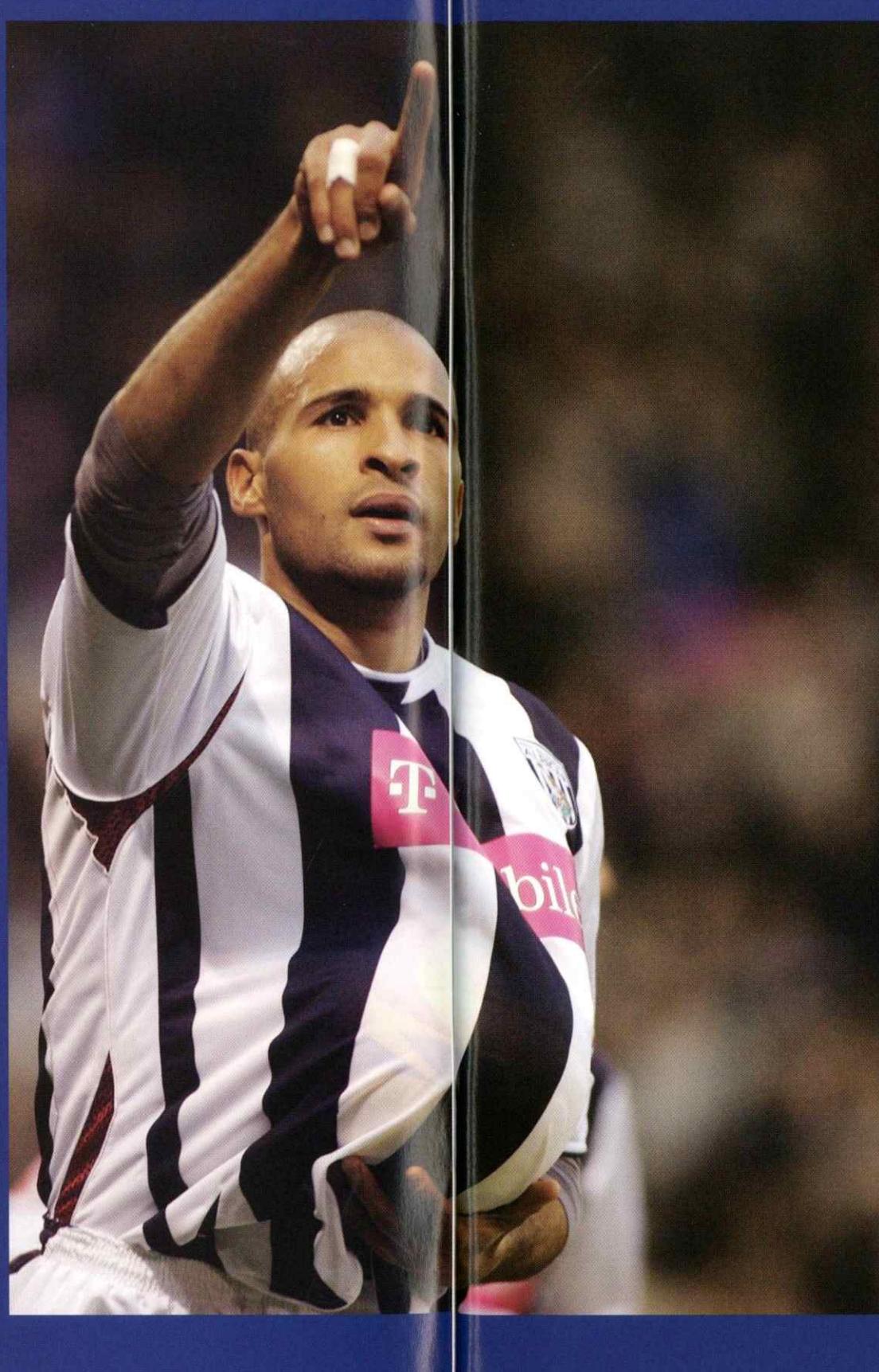
From there, 2-0 up, at home, you feel you're coasting. But like all good sides, Preston are resilient, though they were lucky not to be three down after 31 minutes when John Hartson glanced a lovely Koumas cross wide of goal. There was another huge slice of good fortune to come within a few minutes, when a long, aimless ball across goal took a freak bounce and struck Paul Robinson on the arm. The referee decided it wasn't ball to hand, appeared to give a free-kick on the edge of the box, then on the advice of Preston's Whaley, decided it was actually a penalty. Graham Alexander bludgeoned the ball to Hoults right, perfect placement even though the 'keeper made a forlorn dive in the right direction.

Preston took heart from that and should have been level on 39 minutes, Dichio somehow heading wide from two yards out in the centre of the goal. It was Dichio's last positive contribution, for two minutes later, he was on his way to the early bath. He and Paul McShane jumped for a header, Dichio's elbow striking the Irishman and, just as the referee concluded Robinson's transgression was not accidental, so he decided that Dichio's was deliberate too. Albion pushed forward to try to make the numbers count before the break but Nash made a routine save from Koumas, then spilled a shot from Phillips, falling gratefully on the rebound to preserve the scoreline at 2-1 at the interval.

The second half started in sluggish fashion, Albion looking happy to simply play keep ball, to prevent Preston gaining momentum and pushing on towards our goal. But while we did retain possession well, at times it was an uneasy kind of possession, Albion caught between two stools - the sensible solidity of shape and possession and the natural inclination to burst forward and knock a couple more goals in.

The crucial third goal almost came on 56 minutes with a swift break from Carter who fed Phillips, the striker stubbing his shot when well placed, Preston clearing comfortably. That looked an act of profligacy on 67 minutes when from nowhere, Preston were all square. Robinson and McShane both went for the same header on the edge of the Albion box, the loose ball falling to Sedgwick on the right. With time to spare, he picked out Nugent in the middle, the ball ricocheting off him and into the net to bring Preston all square going into the final quarter of the game.

Mowbray's response was swift, Nathan Ellington joining the action. Ellington was instantly in on the act, restoring the lead within three minutes, thumping a 25 yard free-kick at the bottom corner of the net, Nash getting down to it, getting hands to it, but letting it squirm beneath him and over the line.



Preston are a spirited bunch, but the stuffing was knocked out of them by that and Albion could have got another when Phillips was through but failed to pick out Koumas or Ellington, the chance disappearing.

But no matter, the way Albion play, there'll be another one along in a minute. There was, Robinson chipping a ball into the box, Nash flying off his line but beaten to the punch by Ellington, the ball getting that extra bit of spring off Duke's afro and lobbing up and over the 'keeper's outstretched arm and into the net.

A 4-2 demolition job on the team that started the day in the automatic promotion places. A fully deserved victory earned by skill, technique, hard work and belief. Keep those ingredients in place for the next few months and the sky is the limit for these Throstles.

TEAMS

ALBION:

Hoults, Albrechtsen, McShane, Davies, Robinson, Kamara, Greening, Carter (Ellington 71), Koumas, Phillips (Chaplow 86), Hartson (Quashie 60).

Subs Not Used: Zuberbuhler, Perry.

SCORERS: Koumas (6), Kamara (25), Ellington (75, 87).

BOOKED: Phillips (45), Quashie (83).

PRESTON NORTH END:

Nash, Alexander, St. Ledger, Chilvers, Hill, Whaley (Miller 38), McKenna (Wilson 68), Sedgwick, Pugh (Ormerod 83), Nugent, Dichio.

Subs Not Used: Lonergan, Lewis Neal.

SCORERS: Alexander (35 pen), Nugent (67).

BOOKED: Nugent (73), Alexander (74).

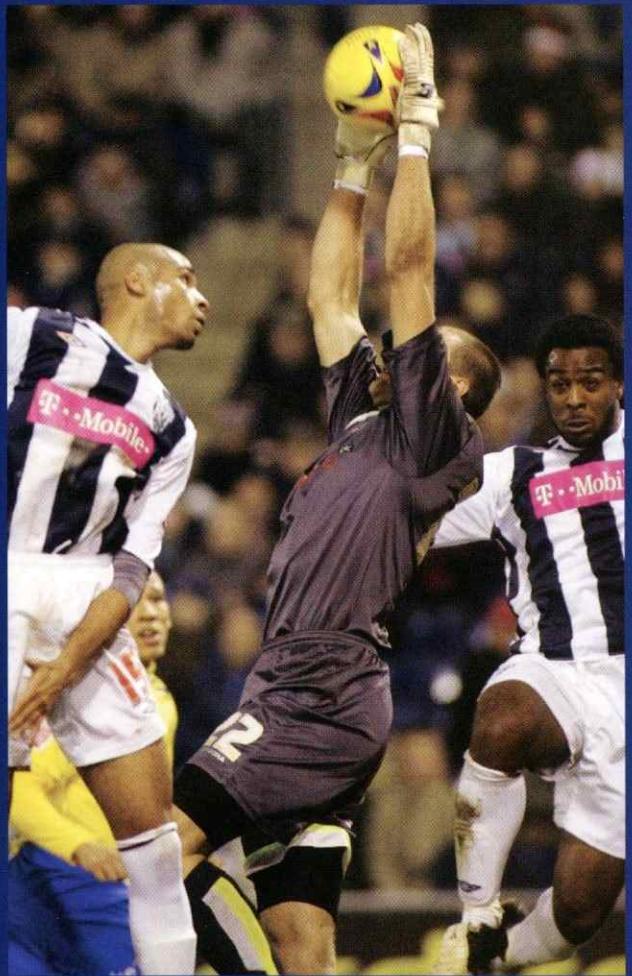
SENT OFF: Dichio (41).

TONY MOWBRAY:

"We started fantastically well but they got a bit of a lifeline with a penalty kick when an unusual bounce of the ball caught the underside of Paul Robinson's arm with no-one really around him.

"Then Preston had the sending-off, which I felt was pretty harsh, but sometimes that happens. We didn't really step on the gas in the second half. When you have a numerical advantage and you're in front you think you can play at your own tempo. We were very sloppy with their second goal that let them back in.

"But what was great to see at 2-2 was the spirit of the lads. We put our foot fully on the gas again to steamroller the last 20 minutes of the game. The ability to win football matches and score goals when you've got to is a powerful tool."



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0845 3300611 or click on www.westbrom.co.uk/albion



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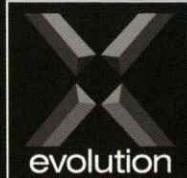
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ALBION IPSWICH TOWN

2
0

COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP
The Hawthorns, Saturday 30th December 2006
Attendance: 20,328
Photos: Paul Broadrick

It might be the time of year when people are making resolutions to shake off a little of the excess weight they put on over Christmas, but the Throstles have already got our own version of the Special K diet – Koumas and Kamara. Low in calories, high in fibre, guaranteed to keep you regular in front of goal. Marvellous.

And how crucial that was because until they burst into life in the second half, thanks largely to a clever tactical switch at the break, Albion had struggled to get to grips with the team they'd handed a five star beating to at Portman Road a couple of months earlier in the a season. Admittedly, conditions were atrocious with pouring rain pelting down upon an already sodden surface - the fact that the pitch held up so well is testimony to the quality of groundsman Rob Lane and the rest of the Albion groundstaff who worked manfully to keep the pitch in a playable condition. But even given the weather, the Throstles found the ball like a piece of soap at times, where Ipswich stroked it around more comfortably.

Perhaps that was because Albion allowed them neat possession in areas of the field where it wouldn't hurt us, allowing them to get a short passing game going without ever giving them much hope of opening us up, where our game was based on pace, longer passing - as distinct from long ball - a style that created better openings but which was always harder to play precisely in such unforgiving conditions.

It might have been different had Macken not miskicked from close range after 7 minutes, but while Ipswich had efforts on goals - a Roberts toe poke after he'd skipped past Martin Albrechtens then a Legwinski drive after Roberts had carved out the opportunity - Russell Hoult was never discomfited by their attempts. Instead, it was the Baggies who came closest to finding the net early on, Darren Carter feeding Jason Koumas whose shot from a tight angle was well saved by Price who got the bonus of a goal kick for his efforts.

That gave Albion some momentum and after 24 minutes, Kevin Phillips latched on to a clearance from an Ipswich corner and raced goalwards, only to be blocked by a saving challenge from Bruce as he tried to get his shot away. Ipswich then did their best to provide a late Christmas present, De Vos heading a Carter towards his own net, Price making a fine save, Paul McShane unable to scramble the ball over the line in the resulting melee.

Ipswich held possession well for much of the half though and Macken had another great chance to put the visitors ahead four



minutes before the break when a quick turn in the box opened things up, but he put his shot wide from 12 yards. That was the last action of a half where Ipswich had much of the ball, but Albion had come close to scoring on three occasions.

But expectations are high at The Hawthorns these days and there was time for some fine tuning to be done at the interval. Di Kamara moved from a central striking position out to the left flank, Jason Koumas taking on a more central role, playing just behind Phillips, both Kamara and Koumas immediately finding more room in which to do their damage.

It didn't take long either, for Albion could have been a goal up at 50 minutes, Phillips pouncing on a poor backpass. He tried to take the ball round Price who doggedly stayed on his feet before diving in to palm the ball away, Kamara first to the loose ball but shooting wide into the side netting.

It mattered little for in Albion's next attack, Kamara skipped around a defender and powered towards the byline from where he drilled in a cross at Legwinski. The Frenchman was adjudged to have handled an infringement that was as much a penalty as the one Paul Robinson conceded against Preston, no more, no less. Ipswich did all they could to delay the taking of the penalty and, perhaps, it worked, as it had when Kamara missed a retaken spot kick against Bolton last year. Whether it was that or the treacherous surface that was most to blame, it wasn't the striker's surest shot, Price down to his right to smother, but Kamara followed the ball in like a good penalty taker should, tapping the rebound in past the prone goalkeeper.



Now the Throstles were flying, a glorious move that swept the length of the field slicing Ipswich to ribbons, Phillips to Carter backheel to Koumas, a penetrating cross that Kamara couldn't quite reach at full stretch, breathless stuff. There was a similar end to a charging Albrechtsen run down the right after 62 minutes, his cross again just that little too advanced for Phillips to finish off.

Carter was in forceful mood in the middle now, instigating a quick break that released Koumas. A perfect reverse ball should have seen Kamara through, but his shot went straight down Price's throat and Ipswich, against the irresistible odds, were still in the game.

But you can only defy those odds for so long and goal number two had to come. It did, 67 minutes and Neil Clement played a lovely ball through to Kamara out on the left. The Senegalese star drifted inside and rolled a ball to the feet of Jason Koumas, on the edge of the box, just to the right of the "D". One look up and the ball was bulleting across the box into the top corner from 20 yards, gloriously clean strike that put an end to the issue.

Ipswich might have made the last few minutes interesting had Lee done better when through on goal after 76 minutes, though McShane defended well to force him wide, such that the angle was far too tight by the time he got his harmless shot away. Three minutes later, a ricochet in the box dropped to Haynes, three yards out, his air shot snuffing out the last vestiges of hope for the Tractor Boys.

And so 2006 came to its footballing end. A year that has relegated it can never pass quickly enough, but there are signs that a new beginning is under way. And isn't that what new years are for? Roll on 2007.

TEAMS

ALBION:
Hoult, Albrechtsen, Davies, McShane, Clement, Gera (Chaplow 81), Greening, Carter, Koumas, Kamara (Watson 90), Phillips.
Subs Not Used: Zuberbuhler, Quashie, Hartson.
SCORERS: Kamara (53), Koumas (67).
BOOKED: McShane (27), Greening (87).

IPSWICH TOWN:

Price, Bruce (Walton 62), Naylor, De Vos, Harding, Roberts (Haynes 70), Legwinski, Garvan, Williams, Macken (Clarke 70), Lee.
Subs Not Used: Supple, Richards.
BOOKED: Legwinski (52), Naylor (83), Lee (90).

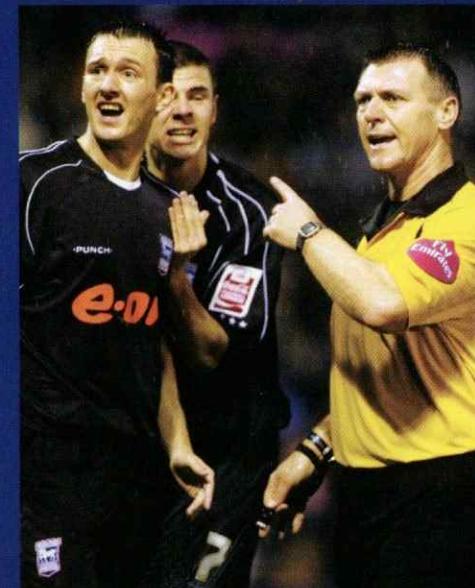
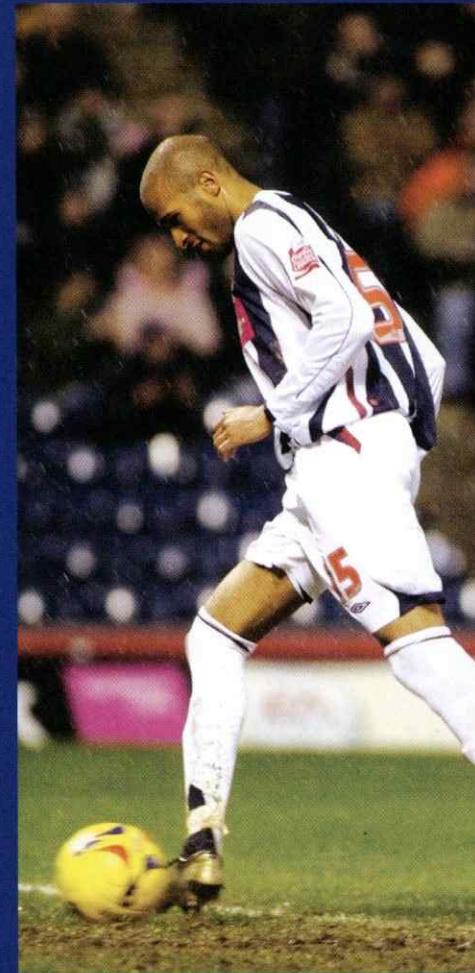
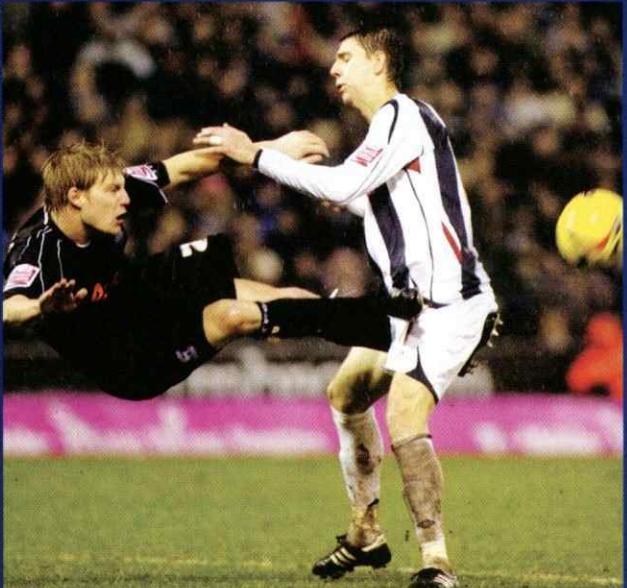
TONY MOWBRAY:

"We knew what Ipswich Town are about. I watched 90 minutes of their game at Coventry on Boxing Day when they dominated the match for 45 minutes. They're a decent football team with good technical players. They do a lot of intense work in tight areas with lots of players. They knock the ball around very well in little triangles and can dominate matches. But we still probably had the best two chances of the first half."

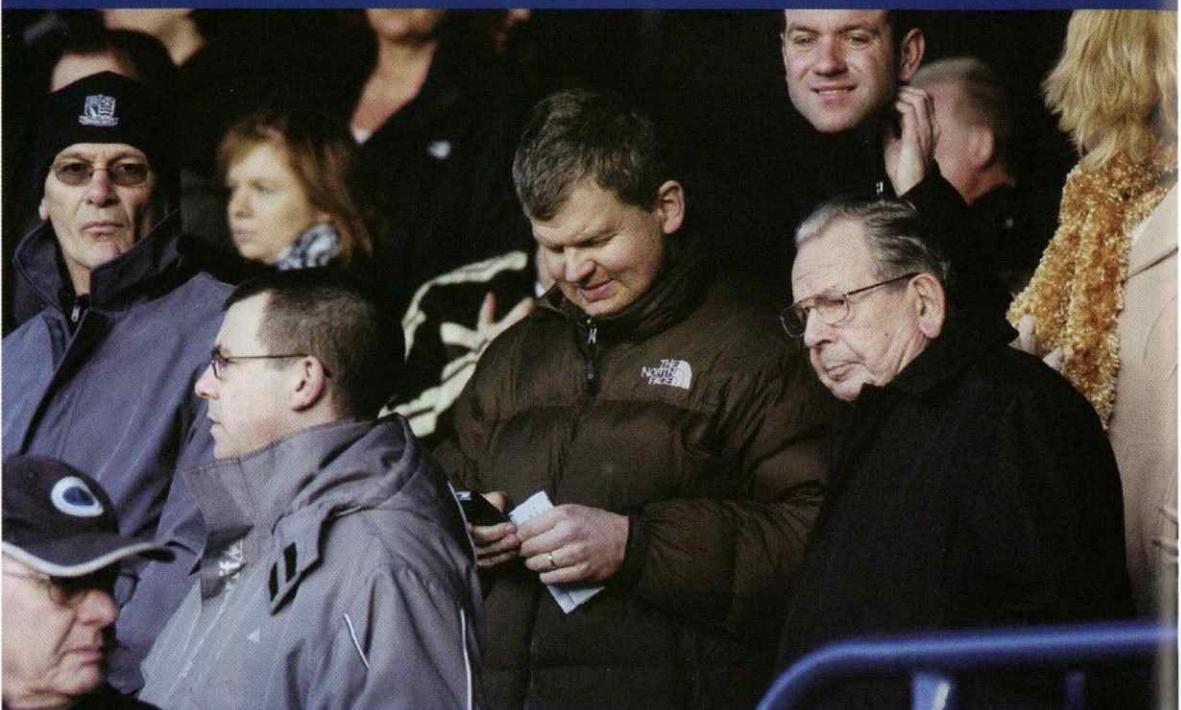
"They are a good football team but we've got players with the ability to win football matches out of nothing. I don't know if Ipswich possess anyone who can hit the top corner of the net like Koumas did from 25 yards. Although Jason's not a striker, he can win you football matches on days like today when you're not as fluid as you can be. His technical ability is there for all to see. We tinkered with his position a little bit today and I think he relished it. He got himself into some good goalscoring areas."

"It was a difficult day for us for long spells of the game. But we do have the quality to hurt teams, which we did, and won the football match. I'm sure Jim Magilton will see it from a different angle and say they played well, but I don't remember Russell Hoult making too many saves."

"We got to grips with things in the second half and little subtle changes helped the team, to get Dio Kamara into an area where he can do more damage. I think the little changes helped the team."



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CURTIS DAVIES



It's been an up and down start to the new year, with a miserable start coming down at Southend where again, our away form let us down badly. There's no away hoodoo, we're just not applying ourselves properly. We need to get in people's faces and do the hard work first.

You can't afford to go halfway through a season having only won two away games. Even if we'd just turned some of our away defeats into draws, we would have been right up there, but we keep losing to sloppy mistakes and silly errors.

With all due to respect to them, if an outsider saw the scoreline that Albion were 3-0 down to Southend at half-time, they would be thinking "what a shambles". It was embarrassing. I went to Roots Hall with Luton years ago and we comfortably won 3-0. I'm playing in a much better side now, against a similar side that played then, but we had been turned over by half-time.

Coming from that, it was really important to go and win the cup game against Leeds. All that matters in the FA Cup is to go into the hat for the draw – or the glass bowl or whatever it is that they use nowadays! We got the right result but we got a good performance as well, I thought we were the better team and it

was just annoying that we conceded that goal late on. That was a bit of a spawny goal that they got, a few deflections and Robbo will be especially upset that he put it over the line, but fortunately, it didn't matter and we go on to the next round now.

The draw looks pretty interesting to say the least, though obviously it's disappointing to be away from home. I'm sure everybody around here will be looking forward to a game against Wolves, but Oldham are going well at the moment so it's not a foregone conclusion that Wolves will come through it. The main thing is at least we can sit back and relax while they have to fight out a replay.

First half against Leeds, I thought we played some really good stuff and we took the game away from them, they couldn't handle us at times. Second half, we knew they were going to throw everything at us, they made all three substitutions at half time, so you have to be a bit more cautious, to make sure they don't get the next goal because that totally changes the shape of the game. We dealt with it, got the third goal to kill them off and it was a professional job done in the finish.

We started the game with another partner alongside me, though obviously I



“I'M SURE EVERYBODY AROUND HERE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO A GAME AGAINST WOLVES, BUT OLDHAM ARE GOING WELL AT THE MOMENT SO IT'S NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT WOLVES WILL COME THROUGH IT.”



“ MACCA CROWNED IT WITH HIS FIRST GOAL, THERE THE RUMOURS ARE THAT IT WAS GOING WIDE AND WAS DEFLECTED IN! I SAID AT HALF TIME, “I WISH ONE OF THOSE WOULD FALL PERFECTLY FOR ME!” BUT IT WAS HIS BIRTHDAY, SO I SUPPOSE HE WAS ENTITLED TO A PRESENT. ”

played a lot of games with Clem last season. He's getting fitter and stronger with every game, he's been champing at the bit lately and now he won't want to give up his shirt. It was a strong combination with Macca on the right as well, man of the match performance from him. I'd have been a bit upset if he didn't get it because he was unbelievable against Leeds. That little nutmeg on Robbie Elliott, if that doesn't make "Showboat", I'm writing in to Soccer AM.

He settled in to that job really well, really solid, the back four moulded well. Then Macca crowned it with his first goal, though the rumours are that it was going wide and was deflected in! I said at half time, “I wish one of those would fall perfectly for me!” But it was his birthday, so I suppose he was entitled to a present.

Big John got the second when he got in behind their defence – I hope we have a tape of that because I've never seen him get in behind like that before! It was good reading of the game from him, judged the bounce perfectly, used his strength and then it was a good finish past Neil Sullivan. Kevin Phillips got on the scoresheet as well, so that's all our strikers who are doing well in

front of goal at the moment. Kev's movement and work rate is unbelievable, he hasn't got all the goals his work has merited this season, but he's such an important player for us.

Hopefully John and Kev can get among the goals tonight too. It's a big game for me, against my old team, especially after I missed the 2-2 draw down at Kenilworth Road. I think it'll be a good game, nice to come up against a few old friends from my time there. They've been unlucky with injuries in the last few weeks, defensively mainly, so it is has been tough for them, but I know they love to come to the big grounds and try to cause an upset. They move the ball around well, they're quick so it will be a tough game.

With the away form as it has been, until we wake up to what we're supposed to do away from here, home games are massively important for us and we have to keep on winning game after game. We're still well in the mix, that home form is what's kept us up there, and so we'll be all out for three more points tonight. Then hopefully, we can get to Elland Road next week and start putting things right against a team that we've already shown we can beat.

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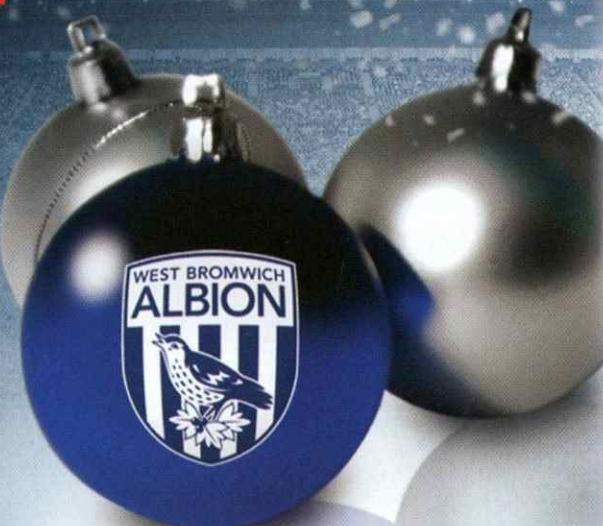
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THE KING OF POP

If you're in a football team that is out to take on the world, you need harmony in the ranks. But today, we can reveal the record player and the player of records that nearly drove England's 1970 World Cup party out of their minds.

Jeff Astle was the guilty man, for before he embarked on the arduous journey to South America to compete in the Mexico tournament, he made absolutely certain that he'd packed a portable record player and a batch of singles, just so that he could keep himself entertained.

There were a few Beatles 45s there, a selection from some bloke from Memphis who called himself The King, but top of Astle's hit parade at the time was a song by Norman Greenbaum. The late, great Peter Osgood takes up the tale.

"I think Sir Alf wanted all the forwards to stick together because I ended up rooming with Geoff Hurst and Jeff Astle. Astle was a funny, funny man and he fancied himself as a singer as well. He loved the fact that he had a number one single, "Back Home", even if it was with the rest of us!"

"He'd brought this record player with him and there was one single that he just wouldn't stop playing. It was "Spirit In the Sky", which had actually knocked "Back Home" off the top of the charts.

"He just played it to death, singing along, wearing the thing out. After a couple of days, me and Hurst had just had enough of it, so we looked at one another, nodded and smashed the damn thing into pieces! It didn't stop him singing though!"



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rank
SKINNER ON...

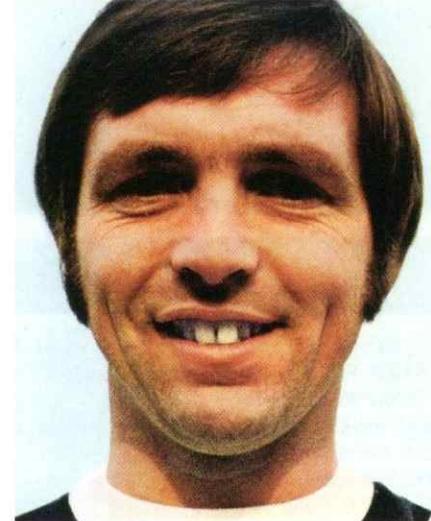
JEFF ASTLE

We've heard what players have to say about one another already in this series this season. But what about a fan's perspective? What did Frank Skinner make of The King?

"When I started watching the Albion, Astle was truly The King, no question. Not just because of all the goals. There was some special kind of relationship thing going on. I remember an English lesson at school and the teacher was trying to get me to come up with a word that had got one letter in it. I couldn't think of one and she said, "Here's a clue." She was trying to get me to say I. She said, "Who is the most important person in your life?"

"Jeff Astle." Which wasn't the answer she was after. But he was. When we won the cup in 1968, I didn't get to Wembley, I was at home. I remember kneeling in front of a black and white telly and kissing him on the screen after he scored and feeling the static off the telly on my lips.

"When I started doing "Fantasy Football", we used to do "Phoenix From The Flames", re-enacting famous moments from football, just so we could film a famous footballer. I said we had to do something with Jeff Astle and everybody said it had to be the miss



against Brazil, but I didn't want him to be remembered for that. So we did the goal against Leeds which basically robbed Leeds of the title. Some off-sideness was possibly involved here and there. So we drove off to his house in Staffordshire. I've met a lot of film stars and big musicians and all that, but I was really tense because I thought, "If I meet him and he's not very nice then all those years of hero worship are all going to be poisoned." When we got there, he was really friendly and very funny, telling us gags he nipped upstairs and came down with a big black and white photo that he'd signed "To Frank" and it was brilliant. We recreated this goal, Laraine his wife played Gary Sprake's part so the whole family joined in and it was such a special moment for me. They say never meet your heroes, and it is a risk, but he absolutely didn't let me down.

"I think fans understand that Jeff was a bona fide Albion fan. We needed to win at Portsmouth to stay in Division One and we went together to Fratton Park. We won, which was brilliant. Our hotel was like four miles away and it was football traffic so we couldn't get a taxi. Jeff looked around the traffic and there was a mini bus with some Albion fans in. Jeff waved them down and they stopped.

"We've got to get to the Santelle Hotel - c you drive us there?"

"Yeah, course."

It was like celebrity hitchhiking. All the w there they were singing "Astle's in our van! Astle's in our van!" So we got back to ho and decided to have few games of pool befc we went home. I always remember him leani over the table and he was just lining up tl thing and I could hear him singing to himse "Astle's in our van, Astle's in' our van!" I loved it. If ever a man loved celebrity he d the stuff that goes with being a hero.

"I know some fans aren't always positive abc Jason Roberts, but as far as I'm concerne what he did that day that Jeff died, when lifted his shirt and had a picture of Jeff the that will always make him one of the goo guys for me. You often think modern playe don't have that sense of history or roman about the game and I don't know how mu significance Jason recognised in all that. E he obviously did have a clear sense of wh Astle meant for the fans and it was a spec moment. I will always love him for doing th It was a brilliant thing."

"WE RECREATED THIS GOAL, LARAINA HIS WIFE PLAYED GARY SPRAKE'S PART SO THE WHOLE FAMILY JOINED IN AND IT WAS SUCH A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR ME. THEY SAY NEVER MEET YOUR HEROES, AND IT IS A RISK, BUT HE ABSOLUTELY DIDN'T LET ME DOWN."

ALBION IN THE COMMUNITY

Call 08700 66 2840 or email info@wbacp.co.uk



ALBION IN THE COMMUNITY...

Welcome to this evening's match! It's been a busy start to 2007 for West Bromwich Albion FC Community Programme, not least for one of our longest serving members of staff. Jamie has spent years working with young people on behalf of the club and now has one of his own to work with. Jamie and Michelle celebrated the birth of their first child on New Years Eve and all are doing well. Our congratulations go to them all.

Our Sports Hall is launched on the 18th January and if you or your organisation want to find out how you can use the facility then please contact the Community department.

Enjoy this evening's game,

Fraser Foster

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY SOCCER CAMPS

Dell Stadium, Pensnett on 12th & 13th February.
 WBA FC/Sandwell Academy on 12th, 13th, 14th February.
 WBA FC/Sandwell Academy on 12th, 13th Goalkeeping
 Willingworth High School, Tipton on 12th, 13th February
 Wodensborough High School, Wednesbury on 14th, 15th, 16th February
 Redhill High school, Stourbridge on 14th, 15th, 16th February including
 a trip to Arsenal FC
 Redhill High School, Stourbridge on 16th February, Goalkeeping.
 Thimblemill, Smethwick on 15th, 16th February.
 For more information and to book a place contact WBA
 Community Programme



PROJECT PROFILE - FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT WITH HAT TRICK



Football at George Salter High School has been developing over the last six months with the new additions of Futsal into the PE curriculum with more girls taking part in the football activities. The School are now planning a Futsal league for February. They also have their second Junior Football Organisers course planned for Yr 10 pupils in April highlighting just one way on which the school benefits from the UEFA Hat trick Programme in Greets Green.

Girls from Yr7 and Yr8 recently attended a West Bromwich Albion FC Matchday where they were trained by Siobhan Hodgetts who will be delivering further coaching in Sandwell Schools.

PROJECT PROFILE - WBA STUDY SUPPORT CENTRE



To ensure that we still have the WOW factor that contributes to us being an 'Advanced' Study Support Centre, we have spent the Christmas break redecorating the Centre. Both of our Learning Zone 1 have had the walls painted and are being decorated with WBA FC merchandise. Our ICT provision has been improved, with brand new desktop computers being installed in Learning Zone 1 and a bank of desktop computers being installed in Learning Zone 2, building on capacity and complimenting our Apple iBook mobile ICT suite, our Digital Video Editing suite, our iPod Audio Editing suite, and our new handheld computers. If you'd like to see photos of the new look please visit www.wbastudysupport.com, and click on News!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - WEEKLY SOCCER CENTRES

Get fit in the New Year and enjoy yourselves at the same time. Albion in the Community is now delivering evening centres across the region. For just £3.00 per session, you can come along and enjoy the fun or call our offices for full details.

Tuesday Evenings – Wodensborough High School
 Tuesday Evenings – Redhill High School
 Thursday Evenings – Redhill High School

Available for mini kickers age 5 – 7 years and coaching sessions from age 8 – 12 years.



ACHIEVEMENTS - SPORT FOR ALL



West Bromwich Albion FC Community Programme staff have recently participated in an awareness raising day entitled 'Including disabled in PE' delivered by the English Federation of Disability. Delivered in the Academy Dome, the training was very well received with many staff actively interested in working with young people with disabilities.

A further achievement for disability sport at WBA was signified by our Visually Impaired Football Team being top of the British Blind Sports League at the time of writing. Promotion for both them and the 1st team who are currently placed third is a realistic goal.

ALBION IN THE COMMUNITY

Call 08700 66 2840 or email jan.lockley@wbacp.co.uk



GOOD AFTERNOON TO ALL OF OUR JUNIOR BAGGIES



Hello to all of you this evening. What a perfect way to end your first full week at school with tonight's evening fixture!

How would you like to celebrate your birthday here at The Hawthorns? We can offer you a birthday party during the week or a birthday celebration on a matchday. Maybe you would like to be an official WBA Matchday mascot? Call me at the Community Programme for full details of the packages and benefits Junior Baggies can receive.

MASCOTS & BIRTHDAYS

Our first mascot today is Ryan Lunn. Ryan is 11 years old and from Wednesbury. He enjoys Cricket and swimming and his favourite player is Paul Robinson.

Dominic Soulsby is our second mascot. Dominic is from Tividale and is 5 years old. He enjoys football and swimming and his favourite player is Paul Robinson.

Tommy Southey is our visiting mascot. He is 7 years old and from Stevenage. He enjoys playing for Pin Green Juniors Under 7's and his favourite player is Rowan Vine.



COMPETITION

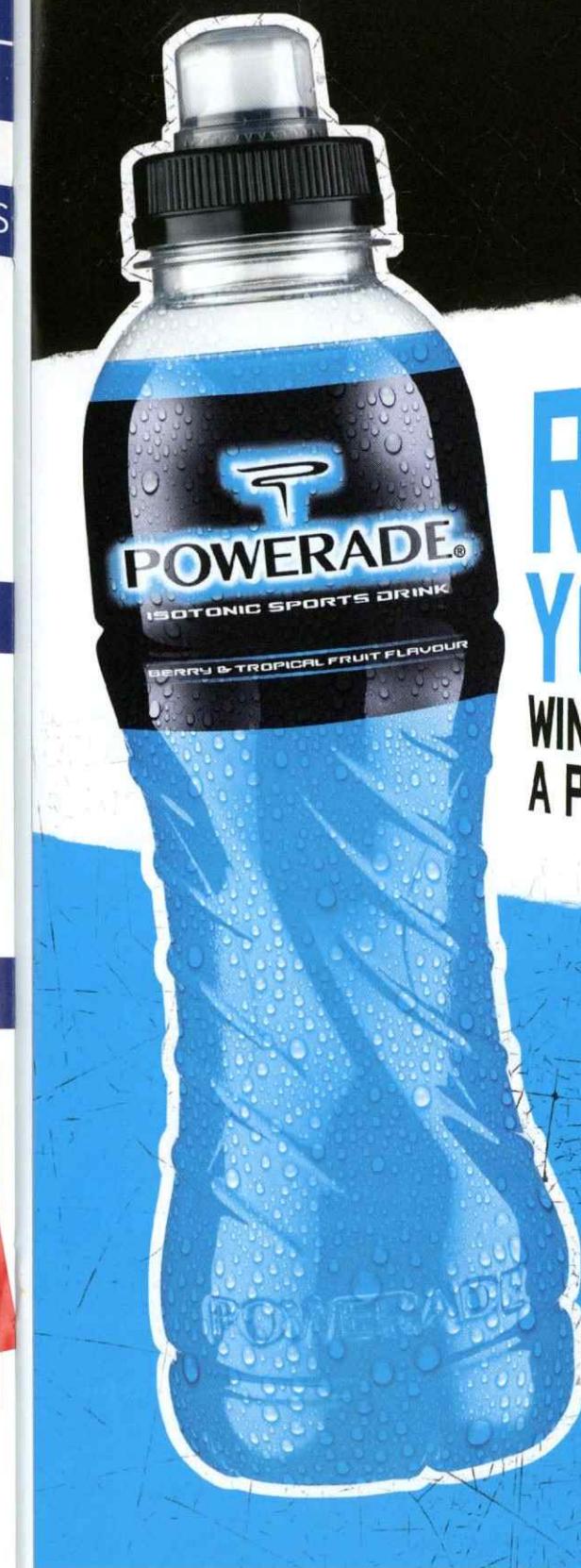
MATCH DAY MASCOT COMPETITION

Fancy being an official WBA Match Day Mascot. Why not enter our competition and you could be our official mascot for our away fixture at Queens Park Rangers on Saturday March 31st 2007. Kick off 3.00pm.

- What is the name of Queens Park Rangers Stadium?
- Who is The Manager of QPR?

The closing date for this competition is February 1st 2007.

Please note – All competition winners must provide their own away kit and tickets.



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The King among his subjects, staying with his club through thick and thin.

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www.wbapics.com

From Astle to Zuberbuhler, from yesterday to yesteryear, we've got the lot.

You know it makes sense

ALBION 2006-07

FORM TABLE 06-07

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ALBION	6	4	1	1	17	8	9	13
DERBY COUNTY	6	4	1	1	7	4	3	13
COLCHESTER UNITED	6	4	0	2	12	5	7	12
SOUTHAMPTON	6	3	3	0	11	6	5	12
PRESTON	6	4	0	2	9	6	3	12
STOKE CITY	6	4	0	2	8	6	2	12
BIRMINGHAM CITY	6	3	2	1	13	6	7	11
HULL CITY	6	3	2	1	10	5	5	11
WOLVES	6	3	2	1	10	6	4	11
CRYSTAL PALACE	6	3	2	1	7	4	3	11
IPSWICH TOWN	6	3	1	2	4	4	0	10
NORWICH CITY	6	2	2	2	9	8	1	8
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	6	2	2	2	10	10	0	8
LEICESTER CITY	6	2	2	2	6	7	-1	8
SUNDERLAND	6	2	1	3	6	5	1	7
LUTON TOWN	6	1	4	1	8	9	-1	7
Q.P.R.	6	2	1	3	5	6	-1	7
SOUTHEND UNITED	6	1	3	2	5	8	-3	6
CARDIFF CITY	6	0	5	1	3	6	-3	5
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	6	0	4	2	6	10	-4	4
LEEDS UNITED	6	1	1	4	4	10	-6	4
BARNESLEY	6	1	1	4	2	9	-7	4
BURNLEY	6	0	3	3	3	7	-4	3
COVENTRY CITY	6	0	2	4	7	16	-9	2

AS AT 8 JANUARY 2007

CAREER APPEARANCES

PLAYER	LEAGUE		FA CUP		L CUP		OTHER		TOTAL	
	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
PASCAL ZUBERBUHLER	15	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	17	0
STEVE WATSON	37+4	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	39+4	1
PAUL ROBINSON	114+3	2	6	0	5	0	0	0	125+3	2
CHRIS PERRY	20	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	21	0
NEIL CLEMENT	221+20	20	12	2	14+2	3	2	0	249+22	25
CURTIS DAVIES	55	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	60	2
JONATHAN GREENING	92+5	3	5	0	3+2	1	0	0	100+7	4
NATHAN ELLINGTON	28+26	11	2	0	4	4	0	0	34+26	15
JOHN HARTSON	12+6	5	1	1	1+1	0	0	0	14+7	6
ZOLTAN GERA	61+15	11	3+1	1	1+1	0	0	0	65+17	12
RICHARD CHAPLOW	9+12	1	2	2	4+2	0	0	0	15+14	3
LUKE STEELE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MARTIN ALBRECHTSEN	67+11	2	5	0	4	0	0	0	76+11	2
DIOMANSY KAMARA	37+5	13	1	0	3+1	1	0	0	41+6	14
ROBERT KOREN	0	0	0+1	0	0	0	0	0+1	0	0
DARREN CARTER	26+15	3	2+1	0	6	1	0	0	34+16	4
THOMAS GAARDSOE	77+4	4	2	0	6+2	0	0	0	85+6	4
JASON KOUMAS	88+18	20	5+1	0	6	0	0	0	99+19	20
PAUL MCSHANE	13+1	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	17+1	1
KEVIN PHILLIPS	17+3	8	1	1	1	0	0	0	19+3	9
STUART NICHOLSON	0+5	0	0+1	0	2	2	0	0	2+6	2
JEFF FORSYTH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RONNIE WALLWORK	86+7	2	7	0	6+1	1	0	0	99+8	3
RUSSELL HOULT	187+1	0	11	0	10	0	2	0	210+1	0
ROB DAVIES	0	0	0+1	0	0	0	0	0+1	0	0
ROB ELVINS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JARED HODGKISS	0+2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2+2	0
TOMASZ KUSZCZAK	30+1	0	0+1	0	3	0	0	0	33+2	0
LUKE DANIELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MICHAEL NARDIELLO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ALBION 2006-07

FORM TABLE 06-07

COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE 06-07

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BIRMINGHAM	25	16	4	5	44	23	52	+21
PRESTON	25	12	8	5	38	26	44	+12
DERBY	25	13	5	7	33	27	44	+6
SOUTHAMPTON	25	11	8	6	41	31	41	+10
CARDIFF	25	11	8	6	36	28	41	+8
ALBION	25	11	7	7	45	28	40	+17
COLCHESTER	25	12	4	9	43	28	40	+15
STOKE	25	11	7	7	32	20	40	+12
WOLVES	25	11	6	8	25	27	39	-2
BURNLEY	25	10	7	8	32	26	37	+6
SUNDERLAND	25	11	4	10	34	31	37	+3
SHEFF WED	25	10	7	8	35	35	37	0
PLYMOUTH	25	8	11	6	32	32	35	0
COVENTRY	25	10	3	12	23	28	33	-5
IPSWICH	25	9	5	11	36	35	32	+1
LEICESTER	25	8	8	9	26	30	32	-4
NORWICH	25	8	7	10	32	39	31	-7
C.PALACE	25	8	6	11	28	31	30	-3
LUTON	25	8	5	12	33	43	29	-10
QPR	25	7	6	12	33	40	27	-7
BARNESLEY	25	7	5	13	29	42	26	-13
HULL CITY	25	5	6	14	23	37	21	-14
LEEDS	25	6	3	16	24	45	21	-21
SOUTHEND	25	3	8	14	18	43	17	-25

AS AT 8 JANUARY 2007

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES 06-07

PLAYER	LEAGUE		FA CUP		C CUP	
	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL	APP	GOAL
PASCAL ZUBERBUHLER	15	0	0	0	0	0
STEVE WATSON	9+2	0	0	0	0	1
PAUL ROBINSON	23	1	4/1	1	0	0
CHRIS PERRY	20	0	5	0	0	1
NEIL CLEMENT	1+5	0	0/1	1	0	0
CURTIS DAVIES	22	0	2	1	0	0
NIGEL QUASHIE	17+3	0	5	0	0	1
JONATHAN GREENING	23+2	1	9	1	0	0
NATHAN ELLINGTON	13+10	6	0	0	0	2
JOHN HARTSON	12+6	5	4	1	1	0
ZOLTAN GERA	18+5	3	4	0	0	0
RICHARD CHAPLOW	2+9	1	1	0	0	0
LUKE STEELE	0	0	0	0	0	0
MARTIN ALBRECHTSEN	21+2	1	2	0	0	0
DIOMANSY KAMARA	16+1	12	5	1	0	0
JUNICHI INAMOTO	0+3	0	0	0	0	0
ROBERT KOREN	0	0	0	0	0	0
DARREN CARTER	15+6	2	6	0	1	1
THOMAS GAARDSOE	0	0	0	0	0	0
JASON KOUMAS	19+3	6	4	1	0	0
PAUL MCSHANE	13+1	0	5	1	1	0
KEVIN PHILLIPS	17+3	8	4	1	1	0
STUART NICHOLSON	0+1	0	0	0	0	2
JEFF FORSYTH	0	0	0	0	0	0
RONNIE WALLWORK	9+1	1	4	0	0	2
RUSSELL HOULT	12	0	0	1	0	0
ROB DAVIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROB ELVINS	0	0	0	0	0	0
JARED HODGKISS	0+1	0	0	0	0	1
TOMASZ KUSZCZAK	0	0	0	0	0	0
LUKE DANIELS	0	0	0	0	0	0

THIS WEEK'S COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES

FRIDAY, 12 JANUARY 2007	WEST BROM V LUTON, 19:45	BIRMINGHAM V LEEDS

ALBION 2006-07



FIXTURES KICK-OFF 3PM SATURDAYS, 7.45PM MIDWEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

BOOKING. SENDING OFF. SCORER¹ SUB1 SUB2 SUB3

FAC: FA CUP. CC: CARLING CUP.

DATE FIXTURE

RES ATT P



1 2 3 4 5 REFEREE

DATE	Fixture	RES	ATT	P	Zuberbuhler	Watson	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Gera	Wallwork	Quashie	Greening	Hartson ²	Ellington	Carter	Inamoto	Albrechtsen	Chaplow	Kuszczak	L.Probert	
Sat Aug 5th	HULL CITY	2-0	20,682	3	Zuberbuhler	Watson	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Gera	Wallwork	Quashie	Greening	Hartson ²	Ellington	Carter	Inamoto	Albrechtsen	Chaplow	Kuszczak	L.Probert	
Tue Aug 8th	Cardiff City	1-1	18,506	4	Zuberbuhler	Watson	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Gera ¹	Wallwork	Quashie	Greening	Hartson	Ellington	Carter	Chaplow	Inamoto	Albrechtsen	Hoult	C.Foy	
Sat Aug 12th	Southampton	0-0	24,233	10	Zuberbuhler	Watson	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Gera	Wallwork	Quashie	Greening	Hartson	Ellington	Carter	Chaplow	Inamoto	Albrechtsen	Steele	S.Tanner	
Sat Aug 19th	COLCHESTER UNITED	2-1	17,509	4	Zuberbuhler	Watson	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Gera	Wallwork ¹	Quashie	Greening	Hartson	Ellington ¹	Carter	Chaplow	Albrechtsen	Inamoto	Steele	P.Taylor	
Thu Aug 24th	Leyton Orient (League Cup 1)	3-0	3,058	--	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen	McShane	C Davies	Robinson	Carter ¹	Wallwork	Chaplow	Greening	Nicholson ¹	Phillips	Hartson	Quashie	Hodgkiss	Inamoto	Steele	K.Wright	
Mon Aug 28th	Sunderland	0-2	24,242	8	Zuberbuhler	Watson	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Gera	Chaplow	Quashie	Greening	Hartson	Ellington	Phillips	Wallwork	Carter	Albrechtsen	Steele	P.Joslin	
Sat Sep 9th	LEICESTER CITY	2-0	19,322	3	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen	Perry	McShane	Robinson	Carter	Wallwork	Quashie	Greening	Hartson	Phillips ¹	Koumas	Ellington	Chaplow	Gera	Hoult	M.Atkinson	
Tue Sep 12th	Fulham (ko 8pm)	0-1	12,119	8	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen	Perry	McShane	Robinson	Gera	Wallwork	Quashie	Carter	Hartson	Phillips	Ellington	Koumas	Greening	Chaplow	Hoult	C.Boyeson	
Sat Sep 16th	SOUTHEND UNITED	1-1	19,576	9	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen	Perry	McShane	Robinson	Gera	Wallwork	Quashie	Carter	Ellington ¹	Phillips	Greening	Koumas	Hartson	Chaplow	Hoult	R.Booth	
Tue Sep 19th	CHEL滕HAM TOWN (League Cup 1)	3-1	10,974	--	Zuberbuhler	Hodgkiss	Perry	McShane	Robinson	Koumas	Wallwork ¹	Chaplow	Carter	Ellington ¹	Nicholson ¹	Greening	Kamara	Gera	Forsyth	Hoult	A.Bates	
Sat Sep 23rd	Luton Town	2-2	9,332	10	Zuberbuhler	Watson	Perry	McShane	Robinson	Koumas	Wallwork	Quashie	Carter ¹	Ellington	Phillips	Gera ¹	Greening	5 Nicholson	Chaplow	Hoult	P.Dowd	
Sat Sep 30th	LEEDS UNITED	4-2	21,435	6	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen ¹	Perry	McShane	Robinson	Koumas	Gera	Greening	Carter	Hartson	Phillips ¹	Kamara ²	Chaplow	Hodgkiss	5 Nicholson	Hoult	R.Styles	
Sat Oct 14th	Ipswich Town	5-1	22,581	4	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas	Gera	Greening	Carter	Kamara ²	Phillips ³	Quashie	Ellington	Watson	Hartson	Steele	A.Woolmer	
Tue Oct 17th	Crystal Palace (ko 8pm)	2-0	16,105	3	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas	Gera ¹	Greening	Carter	Kamara ¹	Ellington	Quashie	McShane	Watson	Hartson	Steele	R.Lee	
Sun Oct 22nd	WOLVES (ko Noon)	3-0	26,606	3	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen ¹	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas	Gera	Greening	Quashie	Kamara ¹	Ellington	Hartson ¹	Chaplow	Watson	McShane	Steele	H.Webb	
Tues Oct 24th	ARSENAL (League Cup 3)	0-2	21,566	--	Hoult	Watson	McShane	C Davies	Robinson	Chaplow	Quashie	Greening	Carter	Hartson	Ellington	Kamara	Gera	Albrechtsen	Wallwork	Steele	M.Atkinson	
Sat Oct 28th	Birmingham City (ko Noon)	0-2	21,009	3	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Quashie	Greening	Gera	Kamara ¹	Ellington	Hartson	McShane	Watson	Chaplow	Hoult	N.Miller		
Tue Oct 31st	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	3-3	17,417	5	Zuberbuhler	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Watson	Koumas	Wallwork	Greening	Gera	Kamara ²	Ellington ¹	Phillips	Hartson	McShane	Chaplow	Hoult	L.Mason	
Sat Nov 4th	Derby County	1-2	25,342	5	Hoult	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Watson	Koumas	Chaplow ¹	Greening	Gera	Kamara ¹	Ellington	Phillips	Hartson	McShane	Wallwork	Steele	P.Walton	
Sat Nov 11th	NORWICH CITY	0-1	18,718	6	Hoult	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Watson	Koumas	McShane	Greening	Carter	Kamara	Phillips	Ellington	Hodgkiss	S Nicholson	Wallwork	Steele	G.Laws	
Sat Nov 18th	BURNLEY	3-0	18,707	6	Hoult	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas ¹	Quashie	Ellington ¹	Carter ¹	Kamara	Phillips	Chaplow	McShane	Watson	Wallwork	Steele	R.Beeby	
Sat Nov 25th	Stoke City	0-1	18,282	8	Hoult	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas	Quashie	Greening	Carter	Kamara	Phillips ¹	Gera	Ellington	Watson	McShane	Steele	M.Thorpe	
Tue Nov 28th	Sheffield Wednesday	1-3	21,695	10	Hoult	Albrechtsen	Perry	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas ¹	Quashie	Greening	Carter	Kamara	Phillips	McShane	Gera	Watson	Ellington	Steele	K.Wright	
Sat Dec 2nd	DERBY COUNTY	1-0	20,494	8	Hoult	Albrechtsen	McShane	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas	Quashie	Greening	Gera	Kamara ¹	Phillips	Hartson ¹	Clement	Ellington	Hodgkiss	Steele	R.Booth	
Sun Dec 10th	Barnsley (ko 1.15pm)	1-1	9,512	9	Hoult	Albrechtsen	McShane	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas ¹	Quashie	Greening	Gera	Hartson	Phillips	Clement	Ellington	Hodgkiss	Steele	A.Bates		
Sat Dec 16th	COVENTRY CITY	5-0	20,370	8	Hoult	Albrechtsen	McShane	C Davies	Robinson ¹	Koumas ¹	Quashie	Greening	Kamara ²	Hartson	Phillips ¹	Ellington	Gera	Clement	Carter	Steele	M.Jones	
Sat Dec 23rd	Plymouth Argyle	2-2	15,162	7	Hoult	Albrechtsen	McShane	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas	Carter	Greening	Kamara	Hartson	Phillips ²	Clement	Ellington	Gera	Chaplow	Zuberbuhler	I.Williamson	
Tue Dec 26th	PRESTON NORTH END	4-2	22,905	6	Hoult	Albrechtsen	McShane	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas ¹	Carter	Greening	Kamara ¹	Hartson	Phillips ¹	Quashie	Ellington ²	Chaplow	Perry	Zuberbuhler	S.Matthieson	
Sat Dec 30th	IPSWICH TOWN	2-0	20,328	5	Hoult	Albrechtsen	McShane	C Davies	Clement	Koumas ¹	Carter	Greening	Kamara ¹	Gera	Phillips	Chaplow	Watson	Hartson	Quashie	Zuberbuhler	C.Penton	
Mon Jan 1st	Southend United	1-3	9,907	5	Hoult	Albrechtsen	McShane	C Davies	Robinson	Carter	Greening	Kamara	Gera	Phillips	Ellington	Clement	Hartson ¹	Chaplow	Zuberbuhler	T.Kettle		
Sat Jan 6th	LEEDS UNITED (FAC3)	3-1	16,957	--	Hoult	McShane	Clement	C Davies	Robinson	Koumas	Chaplow	Greening	Kamara	Hartson ¹	Phillips ¹	Carter	Karen	Gera	Hodgkiss	Zuberbuhler	N.Miller	
Fri Jan 12th	LUTON TOWN					HST 30 Nov			MEM 30 Nov		GS 8 Jan											
Sat Jan 20th	Leeds United					AST 18 Dec			HST 26 Dec		MEM 4 Jan		GS 10 Jan									
Tue Jan 30th	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE								HST 21 Dec		MEM 21 Dec		GS 22 Jan									
Sat Feb 3rd	Hull City								AST 8 Jan		HST 13 Jan		MEM 18 Jan		GS 24 Jan							
Sat Feb 10th	SOUTHAMPTON									HST 21 Dec		MEM 21 Dec		GS 5 Feb								
Sat Feb 17th	Colchester United									AST 22 Jan		HST 30 Jan		MEM 8 Feb		GS 14 Feb						
Tue Feb 20th	CARDIFF CITY										HST 4 Jan		MEM 4 Jan		GS: to be confirmed							
Sat Feb 24th	Leicester City										AST 5 Feb		HST 10 Feb		MEM 15 Feb		GS 21 Feb					
Sat Mar 3rd	SUNDERLAND											HST 18 Jan		MEM 18 Jan		GS 26 Jan						
Sun Mar 11th	Wolves (ko Noon)											HST 11 Feb		MEM 22 Feb		GS 28 Feb						
Wed Mar 14th	CRYSTAL PALACE											HST 26 Jan		MEM 26 Jan		GS 5 Mar						
Sun Mar 18th	BIRMINGHAM CITY (ko 11.30am)											HST 1 Feb		MEM 1 Feb		GS to be confirmed						
Sat Mar 31st	Queens Park Rangers											HST 3 Mar		MEM 8 Mar		GS 14 Mar						
Sat Apr 7th	STOKE CITY											HST 22 Feb		MEM 22 Feb		GS to be confirmed						
Mon Apr 9th	Norwich City											HST 12 Mar		MEM 22 Mar		GS 28 Mar						
Sat Apr 14th	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY											HST 1 Mar		MEM 1 Mar		GS 9 Apr						
Sat Apr 21st	Burnley											HST 7 Apr		MEM 12 Apr		GS 18 Apr						
Sat Apr 28th	Coventry City											HST 14 Apr		MEM 19 Apr		GS 25 Apr						
Sun May 6th	BARNESLEY											HST 25 Mar		MEM 25 Mar		GS to be confirmed						

All Saturday & Sunday games are 3pm kick-offs unless stated
All midweek games are 7.45pm kick-offs unless stated

KEY TO TICKET SALE DATES:

AST - Away season ticket holders & Premier shareholders

RESERVE & YOUTH 2006-07

FIXTURES

KICK-OFF 3PM SATURDAYS, 7.45PM
MIDWEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

FAC: FA CUP. CC: CARLING CUP.

DATE FIXTURE RES



Tue Aug 15th	Nottingham Forest	0-2	Steele	Hodgkiss	Baker	Forsyth	Manchester	Sissoko	Humphrey	Downing
Mon Aug 21st	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	3-1	Steele	Hodgkiss	Baker	Forsyth	Manchester	Sissoko	Humphrey ¹	Inamoto
Wed Aug 30th	Leeds United	1-0	Hoult	Hodgkiss	Albrechtsen	Forsyth	Manchester	Sissoko	Humphrey	Carter
Mon Sep 4th	SHREWSBURY TOWN	1-3	Steele	Hodgkiss	Baker	Forsyth	Manchester	Sissoko	Humphrey	McGovern
Mon Sep 18th	WALSALL	1-1	Steele	McGovern	Baker	Forsyth	Clement	Sissoko	Labadie	R Davies
Wed Sep 27th	Huddersfield Town (League Cup 1)	2-0	Hoult	Hodgkiss	Baker	McGovern	Manchester	Sissoko	Labadie	R Davies
Tue Oct 3rd	Bradford City	0-1	Hoult	Hodgkiss	Baker	Forsyth	Manchester	Sissoko	Labadie	R Davies
Mon Oct 9th	Birmingham City	0-2	Hoult	Hodgkiss	Baker	Forsyth	Watson	Chaplow	Elvins	R Davies
Wed Oct 18th	PORT VALE	4-1	Steele	Hodgkiss	McShane	Forsyth	Watson ¹	Chaplow	Wallwork	Compton
Wed Oct 25th	Rotherham (League Cup 2)	3-1	Steele	Hodgkiss	Baker	Forsyth	Manchester	Sissoko		R Davies ¹
Tue Nov 7th	Sheffield Wednesday	0-1	Steele	Hodgkiss	Baker	Forsyth	McShane	Sissoko	McGovern	R Davies
Wed Nov 8th	Bolldmere St Michaels (Barn Senior Cup)	0-1	Daniels	Hodgkiss	Labadie	Forsyth	Mason	Sissoko	McGovern	R Davies
Mon Nov 13th	STOKE CITY	3-1	Steele	Hodgkiss	Baker	Forsyth ¹	Clement	Sissoko	McGovern	R Davies
Wed Nov 22nd	Barnsley (ko 2pm)	1-0	Daniels	Hodgkiss ¹	Baker	Watson	Clement	Sissoko	McGovern	Manchester
Wed Nov 29th	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (League Cup 3)	2-0	Steele	Hodgkiss	Baker	Watson ¹	Clement	Forsyth	McGovern	Ellington
Mon Dec 11th	LEEDS UNITED	2-0	Steele	Hodgkiss	Baker	Manchester	Clement	Sissoko	Carter	Chaplow
Wed Jan 24th	Huddersfield Town									
Wed Jan 31st	League Cup QF									
Mon Feb 5th	BRADFORD CITY									
Wed Feb 21st	Walsall									
Mon Mar 5th	BIRMINGHAM CITY									
Mon Mar 19th	Port Vale									
Wed Mar 28th	League Cup SF									
Mon Apr 2nd	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY									
Wed Apr 11th	Stoke City									
Mon Apr 23rd	BARNESLEY									
TBA	NOTTINGHAM FOREST									
TBA	Shrewsbury Town									

All games kick-off at 7pm unless otherwise stated.

All home games in August, September, October and April take place at The Hawthorns, the rest at Kidderminster Harriers FC.

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE (U18S) - GROUP C

DATE FIXTURE RES

Sat Aug 19th	Fulham (inter-group)	0-1	Daniels	McGovern	Baker	Labadie	Manchester	Mason	Humphrey	Downing
Sat Aug 26th	MILLWALL (inter-group)	3-1	Daniels	McGovern	Baker	Labadie	Manchester	Mason	Humphrey	Downing
Sat Sep 2nd	Sheffield Wednesday (inter-group)	1-2	Bateman	Darg	Baker	Labadie ¹	Manchester	Mason	Humphrey	Downing
Sat Sep 9th	SHEFFIELD UNITED (inter-group)	1-2	Bateman	Forsyth	Hancox	Labadie	Manchester	Mason	Sissoko	Lake-Gaskin ¹
Sat Sep 16th	Newcastle United (inter-group)	0-2	Daniels	Forsyth	Baker	Labadie	Manchester	Mason	Sissoko	Lake-Gaskin
Sat Sep 23rd	STOKE CITY	1-2	Bateman	Hume	Baker	Labadie	Manchester	McGovern	Knight	Downing
Sat Sep 30th	Manchester United	2-4	Daniels	McGovern	Baker	Labadie	Waldron	Martin	Squires	Downing
Sat Oct 7th	MANCHESTER CITY	0-2	Bateman	McGovern	Baker	Labadie	Manchester	Holmes	Forsyth	Downing
Sat Oct 14th	Everton	2-1	Skelton	McGovern	Baker ¹	Labadie	Manchester ¹	Holmes	Nichols	Downing
Sat Oct 21st	BLACKBURN ROVERS	2-1	Bateman	McGovern	Baker	Labadie	Manchester	Holmes	Nichols	Compton ¹
Sat Nov 4th	Wolverhampton Wanderers	2-0	Bateman	McGovern	Baker	Labadie ¹	Manchester	Holmes	Nichols	Compton
Sat Nov 11th	LIVERPOOL	1-1	Bateman	McGovern	Baker	Labadie	Manchester	Holmes	Nichols	Compton
Sat Dec 2nd	BOLTON WANDERERS	0-3	Daniels	Mason	Baker	Labadie	Manchester	Holmes	Downing	Compton
Wed Dec 6th	LIVERPOOL (FAYC3)	1-2	Bateman	Mason	Baker	Labadie	Manchester ¹	Holmes	McGovern	Compton
Sat Dec 9th	EVERTON	2-1	Bateman	Mason	Martin	Labadie	Manchester	Holmes	McGovern	Downing
Sat Jan 6th	Blackburn Rovers	0-1	Bateman	Mason	Baker	Labadie	Stevens	Holmes	McGovern	Downing
Sat Jan 13th	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS									
Sat Jan 20th	Liverpool									
Sat Feb 3rd	CREWE ALEXANDRA									
Sat Feb 10th	Bolton Wanderers									
Sat Feb 17th	Stoke City									
Sat Feb 24th	MANCHESTER UNITED									
Sat Mar 3rd	Manchester City									
Sat Mar 10th	SUNDERLAND (inter-group)									
Sat Mar 17th	Derby County (inter-group)									
Sat Mar 24th	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (inter-group)									
Sat Apr 14th	BARNESLEY (inter-group)									
Sat Apr 21st	Nottingham Forest (inter-group)									
TBA	Crewe Alexandra									

PONTINS HOLIDAY LEAGUE DIVISION 1



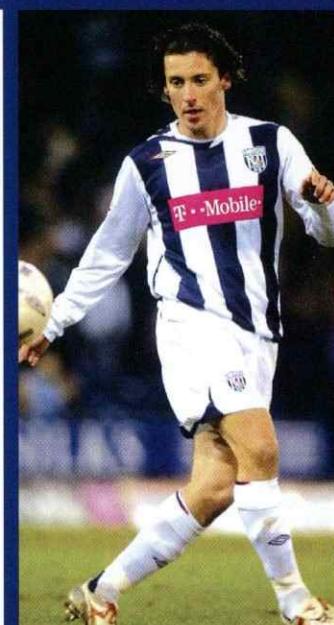
Elvins	S Nicholson	Nardiello	Labadie	Mason	Morrison	D Nicholson	Daniels
Elvins ¹	S Nicholson ¹	D Nicholson	Nardiello	Labadie	McGovern	Downing	Daniels
Elvins	S Nicholson ¹	Koumas	Nardiello	Baker	Downing	D Nicholson	Bateman
Elvins	S Nicholson ¹	Koumas	Mason	Hancox	Downing	Labadie	Bateman
Kamara ¹	S Nicholson	D Nicholson	Mason	Morrison	Lake-Gaskin	Downing	Daniels
Kamara ¹	Nardiello	D Nicholson ¹	D Nicholson	Morrison	Samuels	Pike	Daniels
Nardiello	S Nicholson	D Nicholson	McGovern	Morrison	Downing	Mason	Bateman
Hartson	S Nicholson	Ellington	Bateman	McGovern	Morrison	Nardiello	Sissoko
Quashie	S Nicholson	Elvins	R Davies ²	Baker	Nardiello	Sissoko	Daniels
Nardiello ¹	S Nicholson ¹	Elvins	Morrison	D Nicholson	Mason	Labadie	Daniels
Compton	S Nicholson	Elvins	Labadie	Morrison	D Nicholson	Mason	Daniels
McQuilkin	Elvins	D Nicholson	Nichols	Downing	Holmes	Morrison	Bateman
Compton	S Nicholson ²	Elvins	Manchester	Morrison	Labadie	D Nicholson	Daniels
Compton	Morrison	Elvins	Nardiello	McQuilkin	D Nicholson	Labadie	Bateman
Compton	Hartson ¹	Elvins	Morrison	D Nicholson	Sissoko	Manchester	Daniels
Compton	Ellington ¹	Elvins ¹	Mason	Labadie	D Nicholson	Morrison	Daniels

HAPPY 14TH BIRTHDAY LEE ROUND,
LOTS OF LOVE FROM MUM, DAD,
NAN, ROY, BARRY AND UNCLE GLYN
XXXX



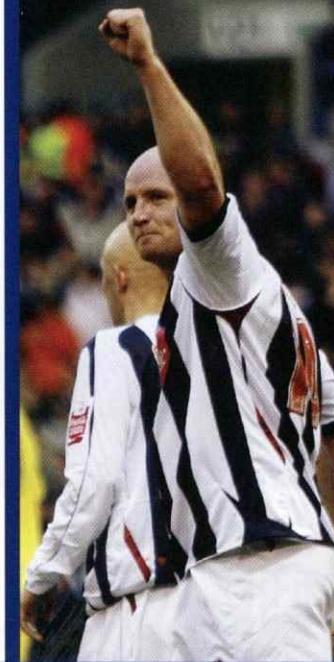
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
NOAH CALEB FIRKIN, 3
ON 5TH JANUARY
COME ON YOU
BAGGIES, LOVE MUM
AND DAD XXX

PAUL HEWETT
HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY
BEST WISHES FROM DAD, EMZE,
GRAN AND GRANDAD



HAPPY BIRTHDAY NIISCHA MULLIGAN, LOTS OF LOVE
MUM & DAD ON YOUR 16TH BIRTHDAY

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PLATE W8 AUK (WBA UK),
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++

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Destination	Duration	Board	Price pp
BENIDORM	5 NIGHTS	SELF CATERING	FROM £45
BENIDORM	5 NIGHTS	HALF BOARD	FROM £69
COSTA DEL SOL	7 NIGHTS	SELF CATERING	FROM £55
COSTA DEL SOL	7 NIGHTS	HALF BOARD	FROM £99
TENERIFE	7 NIGHTS	SELF CATERING	FROM £89
TENERIFE	7 NIGHTS	HALF BOARD	FROM £99
AMSTERDAM	3 NIGHTS	BED/BREAKFAST	FROM £75
PRAGUE	3 NIGHTS	BED/BREAKFAST	FROM £69

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Mitsubishi Shogun Sport Trojan 2.5 Diesel	£872	£249	12months
BMW 520Dse with Metallic paint	£1191	£397	24months
Peugeot 307 Hdi Coupe/Cabriolet	£837	£279	12 months/15000miles
Ford Ranger 2.5TD Double Cab Thunder 4WD	£697	£219	24months
Lexus Is 220D	£1077	£359	12months/15000miles
Volkswagen Tourag 2.5 TDi with Metallic paint	£1167	£389	24months



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LUTON TOWN

One defeat in six games, that's the more than decent record that Luton Town bring to The Hawthorns this evening for our televised fixture in front of the Sky cameras. They must think that everybody in the midlands travels with their own camera crew because the last time they were up here, on Christmas Friday, they were on the box as well, doing particularly well in front of the national audience, stopping Birmingham's charge at the top, Blues more than fortunate to grab a last gasp equaliser.

It was a costly evening in many ways for not only did Mike Newell's side drop two valuable points, they also lost Markus Heikkinen for the season. Fears of a broken leg ultimately proved unfounded but a tackle from Muamba was robust enough to put the Finn out of the side for months to come. That's a hefty blow for the Hatters for the former Aberdeen man is a crucial component in their team a sound defensively minded midfielder who can also fill in at centre-half when required.

But Mike Newell is nothing if not resourceful and he continues to build an impressive reputation for himself at the club that he took into the Championship a couple of years ago. Regularly raided in the transfer market – our own purchase of Curtis Davies being a case in point, as is the recent departure of Carlos Edwards to Sunderland – Newell has regularly gone back to the well and brought a fresh talent to the surface, helping the club go from strength to strength.

The tiny stadium that is Kenilworth Road will

always hinder their hopes of climbing to the top of the league pyramid because it simply cannot generate enough money and yet that weakness is also a source of strength. No team enjoys going there and Newell has concocted a brand of quick moving, slick passing, high tempo football that gets a response from the crowd, racking the atmosphere up week after week.

Even so, this season has been more of a struggle than their first campaign back in the Championship. When we went there in late September, they gave us a torrid time, certainly for the first 45 minutes before we got a better measure of the game, and at that stage, they were in comfortable mid-table. But they come here this evening in 19th place, five points above the trapdoor.

That makes them dangerous opponents for as recent results show, they are prepared to dig in and scrap for the points that will edge them up the league. Allied to which, they have good pace on the break, which means we need to keep a careful eye on players like Rowan Vine. Though according to the popular rumour, we've been doing just that already. Vine has knocked in 14 goals so far this season, including both of the goals that got Luton a 2-2 draw with the Baggies in the first meeting this season. He proved a handful that afternoon, just as he has against Birmingham City, scoring three in his two games against them. That suggests he has no problem in finding the back of the net whatever the opposition, so it's little wonder his name is the latest to be linked with a move out of Kenilworth Road. >





One player going nowhere is Steve Robinson, because he signed a new long term deal with Newell's side earlier this week. At 32, the Northern Irish international has already had nearly five years with the club and could well see out his career with them. The industrious midfielder has over 160 games to his credit and, in a side where young players are regularly coming through, his experience is a steady factor.

The midfield seems well sorted for Newell because Croatian Ahmet Brkovic, of similar vintage to Robinson, has also pledged his future to Luton this week. A clever, creative player, Brkovic is a big asset to them, fitting neatly into the way they play, always quick to spot a dangerous pass.

There's a bit of experience at the back too with Luton having drafted in Portsmouth's Dean Kiely on loan. The 36 year old has 670 games behind him and he's certainly added a little extra confidence to the backline since his arrival, emerging from David James' eccentric shadow at Fratton Park.

Stepping into Curtis Davies' shoes isn't the easiest job in the game, but Leon Barnett has made a pretty decent fist of it over the last twelve months, although the powerful youngster has also played at full-back. He made his first team debut at 16 and is another youngster who looks hungry to make a name for himself.

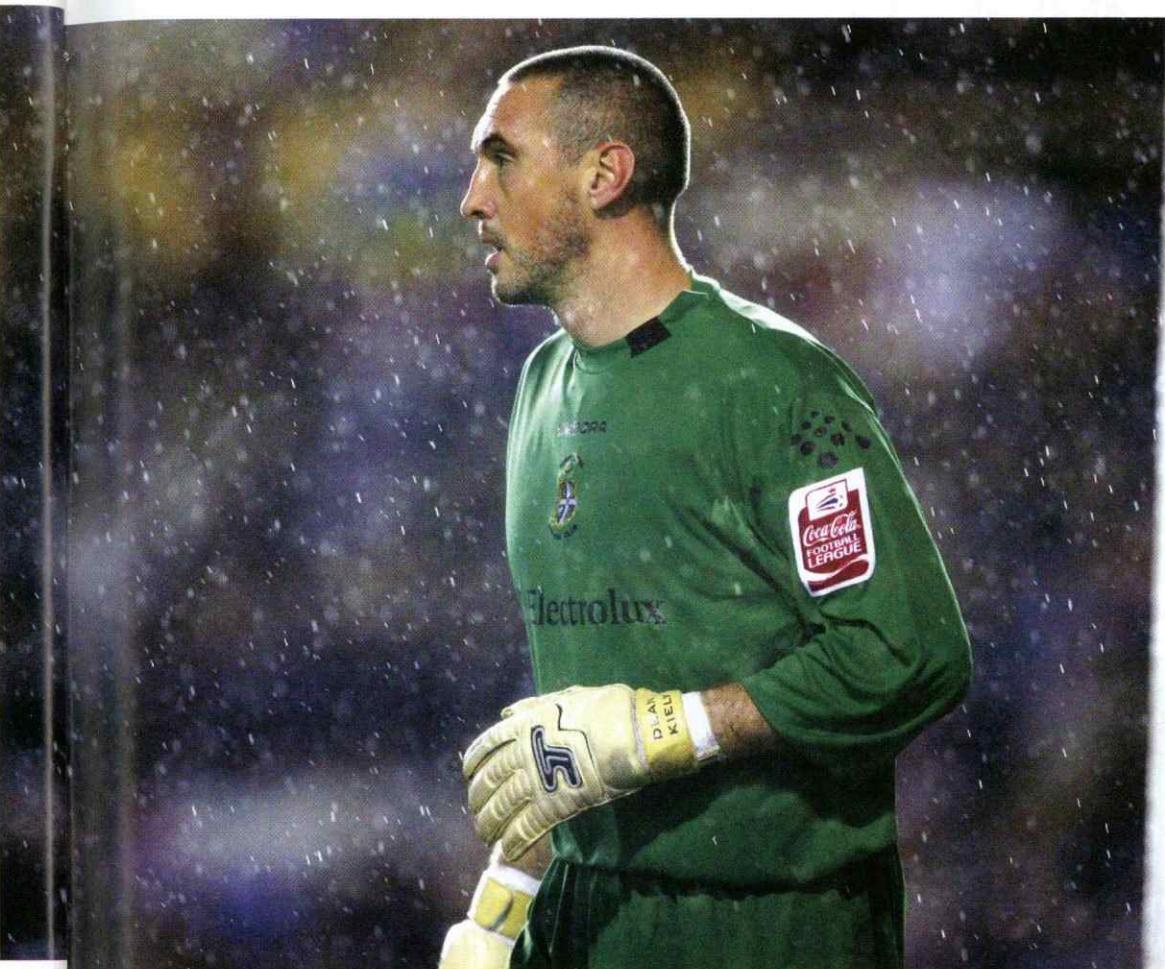
Goals have been something of a worry for Luton this term because if Rowan Vine doesn't get them, nobody else has been especially likely to, Dean Morgan the next top scorer in the Championship with three – Carlos Edwards got six but let's face it, he's not going to get them any more now. The 23 year old joined on a free transfer from

Reading and has been a regular in the side in recent times, as has Warren Feeney, another Northern Irish international. He had a sluggish start to the season but with two goals in his last three games, he's running into some form as he comes to The Hawthorns.

As noted, Luton saw a dip in their fortunes through the autumn, Richard Langley's absence surely playing a part in that. The former Cardiff and QPR midfielder does a lot of hard graft in the middle of the park and he was a good signing for Luton after Rangers chose to release him at the end of last season. He only played three games from the end of September through to the Christmas period, but since his return to the colours, Luton haven't lost any of the four games in which he's figured. Let's hope he's not on the pitch tonight in that case.

Luton have enough raw ability to make life tough for any side in this division on their day and with results picking up, confidence will be coursing through the side. They were tough opponents on their own patch and though the Baggies might have snatched a win had Ronnie Wallwork's late goal not been chalked off that day, a boxing judge might just have given the Hatters the decision on points.

Albion cannot afford to let things go so far down to the wire this evening because a look at the league table illustrates just how essential it is that Albion keep on winning home game after game. A win tonight would heap just a little extra pressure on those around us when they take to the field tomorrow, and that's an opportunity we cannot afford to squander. But it will be anything but easy. Mike Newell's team is not the kind to give away anything cheaply.



“ THERE'S A BIT OF EXPERIENCE AT THE BACK TOO WITH LUTON HAVING DRAFTED IN PORTSMOUTH'S DEAN KIELY ON LOAN. THE 36 YEAR OLD HAS 670 GAMES BEHIND HIM AND HE'S CERTAINLY ADDED A LITTLE EXTRA CONFIDENCE TO THE BACKLINE SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, EMERGING FROM DAVID JAMES' ECCENTRIC SHADOW AT FRATTON PARK. ”

A TIMELY REMINDER YOUNG LADY - DON'T DRINK & DRIVE! TAKE THE HAWTHORNS EXPRESS INSTEAD!



This year's routes are:

ROUTE ONE:

Croft Road, WORCESTER
Worcester Road, (Opp Lido Car Park) DROITWICH
Bus Station, BROMSGROVE

3PM KO 7.45PM KO

12.30PM 5.00PM
1.00PM 5.30PM
1.15PM 5.45PM

ROUTE TWO:

Corporation Street, TAMWORTH
Birmingham Road Bus Station, LICHFIELD
McDonalds, The Parade, SUTTON COLDFIELD

12.30PM 5.00PM
1.00PM 5.30PM

ROUTE THREE:

Opposite railway station, STAFFORD
Bus station, town centre, CANNOCK

12.30PM 5.00PM
1.00PM 5.30PM

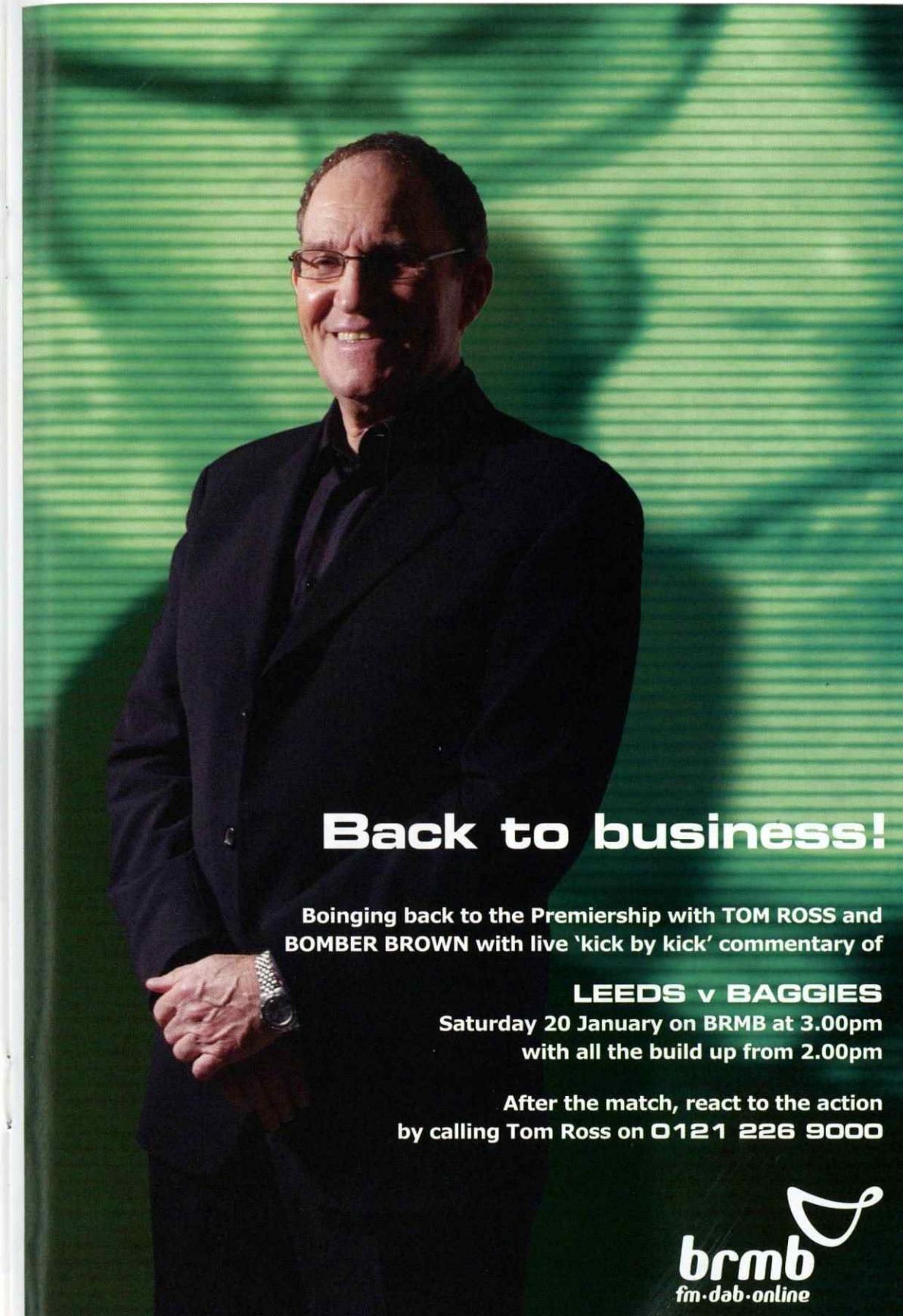
ROUTE FOUR:

KIDDERMINSTER
STOURBRIDGE
LYE
COLLEY GATE
HALESOWEN
QUINTON
BLACKHEATH
WHITEHEATH

1.00PM 5.30PM
1.15PM 5.45PM
1.15PM 5.45PM
1.20PM 5.50PM
1.25PM 5.55PM
1.30PM 6.00PM
1.35PM 6.05PM
1.35PM 6.05PM

The coaches will arrive 45 minutes before the game and will park a short distance from The Hawthorns at East End Foods, adjacent to junction one of the M5, for easy exit from and access to the motorway. They will depart promptly after the match from the same place. To book your coach and match tickets, call 08700 662800.

NB: Other lagers are available. And other women. Pity.



Back to business!

Boinging back to the Premiership with **TOM ROSS** and **BOMBER BROWN** with live 'kick by kick' commentary of

LEEDS v BAGGIES

Saturday 20 January on BRMB at 3.00pm
with all the build up from 2.00pm

After the match, react to the action
by calling Tom Ross on **0121 226 9000**

brmb
fm.dab.online

Stat Pack

MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Tony Mowbray	Mike Newell
Played 14 Won 5 Drawn 3 Lost 6 For 24 Against 20	Played 165 Won 71 Drawn 43 Lost 51 For 257 Against 226
Av Pts/game 1.29	Av Pts/game 1.55
Biggest Win(s) West Brom 5 Coventry 0 (16/12/2006). Biggest Loss(es) Lost 3-1 on 2 occasions	Biggest Win(s) Luton 5 Bristol City 0 (05/03/2005). Biggest Loss(es) Ipswich 5 Luton 0 (29/10/2006).

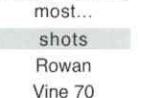
MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played ..0	Tony Mowbray ..0	Mike Newell.....0
Draws ..0	Goals 0	Goals 0

Player with the most...



Player with the most...



shots

Kevin

Phillips 56

shots on target

Kevin

Phillips 31

shots off target

Jason

Koumas 26

assists

Jason

Koumas 6

crosses

Jason

Koumas 61

fouls

John

Hartson 38

free-kicks-won

Jason

Koumas 33

GAMES SINCE

0	a win	4
0	a home win	1
7	an away win	10
1	a defeat	3
6	a home defeat	4
0	an away defeat	2
4	a score draw	0
28	a no score draw	1
0	conceding a goal	0
0	scoring a goal	0
1	conceding > 1	0
0	scoring > 1	0
2	keeping a clean sheet	1
9	fails to score	1
2	back to back wins	18
8	back to back defeats	8
0	gaining a point	0
1	losing a point	0
0	win by > one	4
1	loss by > one	3
	free-kicks-won	Vine 39

SHARP SHOOTERS

West Brom	CCFC	Cup	Tot	Luton	CCFC	Cup	Tot
Diomansy Kamara	12	0	12	Rowan Vine	12	2	14
Kevin Phillips	8	1	9	Dean Morgan	3	1	4
Nathan Ellington	6	1	7	Ahmet Brkovic	3	0	3

TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played37	West Brom wins19	Luton wins10
Draws8	Goals 57 (1.5 per game)	Goals 39 (1.1 per game)
0-0's2	Times failed to score 6	Times failed to score 16

Biggest League win at West Brom for each team:
01/09/1984 & 24/10/1959 & 23/02/1957 West Brom 4-0 Luton
02/04/1996 West Brom 0-2 Luton

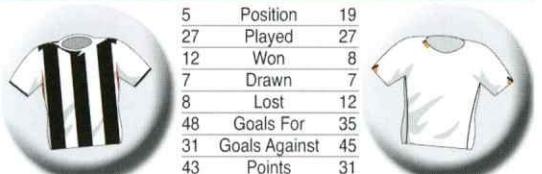


The Football League's Fans of the Future initiative is aiming to attract the next generation of supporters to watch live football at their local club

Find out more at www.football-league.co.uk



2006/07 LEAGUE STATS



Record Against Top Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
5	2	6	6	3	5	8	16

Record Against Bottom Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
7	5	2	9	5	2	4	19

Record When Scoring First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
12	4	1	2	7	2	2	15

Record When Conceding First

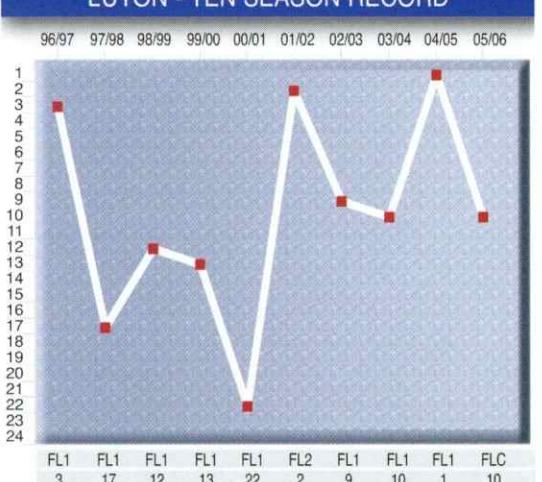
W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
0	2	7	23	1	2	10	16

Match Scores

Wins: 1-0[1], 2-0[4], 2-1[1], 3-0[2], 4-2[2], 5-0[1], 5-1[1], Losses: 0-1[3], 0-2[2], 1-2[1], 1-3[2], Draws: 0-0[1], 1-1[3], 2-2[2], 3-3[1]

Wins: 1-0[1], 2-0[2], 2-1[2], 3-1[1], 3-2[1], 5-1[1], Losses: 0-1[2], 0-2[2], 0-3[1], 0-5[1], 1-2[2], 1-4[2], 2-3[2], Draws: 0-0[3], 1-1[1], 2-2[3]

LUTON - TEN SEASON RECORD



Stat Pack 2006/07

2006/07 SEASON

RESULTS
How many times each result has occurred this season - home sides score shown first

GOAL COUNTER

826

RIGHT FOOT

436 goals

LEFT FOOT

206 goals

HEADERS

161 goals

QUICK-FIRE GOALS

19.5%

Own goals 21 (2.5%), Other body part 2 (0.2%)

DISCIPLINARY



QUICK-FIRE BOOKINGS

56

From the start of a match Dexter Blackstock (QPR vs Southend) 0:15

By a substitute after coming on Micah Hyde (Burnley vs Barnsley) 0:47

SUB TOTALS

1606

Subs used1606

Offsides2132

Corners3584

Shots Off Target3577

1 2 5

*up to and including 07/01/2007



Find out the latest club and league stats at www.football-league.co.uk

ALBION BUSINESS

WITH STUART CURTIS



THIS TIME AT THE HAWTHORNS...

Welcome to our match sponsors this afternoon who are the VIP guests who are with us in the old board room in Halfords Lane. I hope you all have an enjoyable evening with us and that we are all celebrating three more points by the end of the night.

The programme has been sponsored by Tower DIY. The sponsorship has been put together by Martin Leather for his father Brian, 66 years a Baggie. Brian is a lifelong Albion fan dating back to early days in the Brummie Road and in more recent times, watching from the East Stand. His wife Sheila, Alison, Martin, Laura and John all send him their love. On behalf of everyone at the Club, happy birthday Brian, have a fantastic evening with us.

Guests in the Richardson Suite this evening will be entertained by a number of our former players as well as the former Luton, Chelsea and England star, Kerry Dixon. Thanks again to everyone who has joined us in all the corporate areas of the stadium, your support is very much appreciated. I'd also like to welcome MacPhersons Appliances and their guests Neff Appliances who are joining us for this evening's game in the Richardson Suite.



LAST TIME (BUT ONE) AT THE HAWTHORNS...



Former Ipswich and England defender Russell Osman was our guest speaker in the Richardson Suite and he's pictured here with our resident MC Pete McGovern after keeping all our guests entertained with a Q&A session.



The Moet & Chandon Man of the Match was Jason Koumas as chosen by our match sponsors, the VIP guests. He's seen here being presented with his well deserved bottle of bubbly after his fine display, with all the guests in attendance.



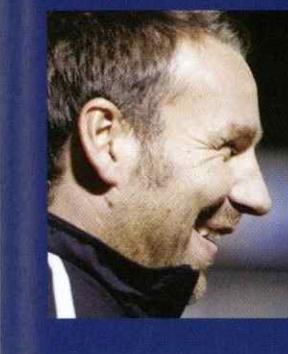
Baggies Bonanza



It could be you! The Baggies Bonanza £1,000 prize at the Leeds cup game still hasn't been claimed at the time of going to press. Ticket 3949 was the winner, bought in the East Stand, so look in your pockets, under the sofa and inside the dog, and if you find it, you could have a grand in your hand. Just give us a call in the corporate sales department to claim your winnings.

When Ipswich were here to bring down the curtain on 2006, the Baggies Bonanza was won by Derek Adams from Tamworth and he is pictured here with grandsons Joe Adams and Matthew Custain. Doubtless they'll be helping him

Albion Business have a special business lunch here at The Hawthorns on Friday 9th February when Adrian Chiles will be the special guest from noon until 2pm. Tickets are priced at just £20 per person to include a three course meal for this launch event, so if you would like to come along, please give us a call in the corporate sales department.



The first sporting dinner of 2007 takes place at The Hawthorns in the Richardson Suite on Thursday 22nd February, when we will be welcoming the Sky Sports Soccer Saturday team. The guest speakers will be Chris Kamara, Steve Claridge and Paul Merson. Tickets are priced at £50 including VAT per person or tables of ten for £500 including VAT, and that includes a three course meal, and an evening of great entertainment. If you want to book your seat, please call the corporate sales team.

PLAYING SOON AT THE HAWTHORNS...

Plymouth Argyle are next up when they come here on Tuesday 30th January. We have hospitality available from £40 plus VAT or why not join us in the Richardson Suite which includes directors' box seating, a three course meal and entertainment from guest speakers from just £75 plus VAT per person. Again, for full details, give the corporate sales department a call.



Southampton are the team that follow them here for the game on Saturday 10th February. There are a range of different packages for that game including a VIP day for £99 plus VAT to include car parking, programme, three course meal with wine, souvenir gift, your chance to vote for the man of the match, and seats in the old directors' box in Halfords Lane.



With games quickly running out and crucial games coming thick and fast, hospitality is already selling well for the remainder of the season. To guarantee your corporate seat for those games, do give us a call soon.

GET SHIRTY

We still have a number of shirt and kit sponsorships available for the season – if you check page 80, you can see exactly what's left. From £400 plus VAT, it's a great Christmas gift, entitling you to the shirt off your player's back, which will be presented at our special dinner in April 2007. Please contact the corporate sales department for more information.

CORPORATE SALES - 08700 662820

CONFERENCE & BANQUETING - 08700 662830

CORPORATE SALES - 08700 662820

CONFERENCE & BANQUETING - 08700 662830

ALBION ON THE ROAD

TRAVEL ORGANISER DAVE HOLLOWAY

A week tomorrow sees us travelling to Elland Road, to take on Leeds United and hopefully our third win of the season over 'The Peacocks'. Travel details for this trip can be found in the right hand column.

The following weekend it is the magic of the F.A. Cup again and we face a trip to either Oldham or Wolves. At the time of writing no date or kick off time has been decided (wherever we end up travelling) so you will have to wait for travel information once the 'i's have been dotted and the 't's have been crossed. I know where I would rather go!

You can also currently book for our first ever visit to the new Hull City stadium on February 3rd. Travel details can also be found to the right, as are those to Colchester United, where we visit on February 17th. Please note that this match will have to be rearranged if either Albion or Colchester (or both!) reach the 5th round of the F.A. Cup, which also takes place that weekend.

When we travelled to Southend United on New Year's Day, someone left a mobile phone on bus 2 that was handed in to me. If it was yours give me a ring and describe the phone and I will see that it gets returned to you. Cheers.

And finally, I was interested to read Adrian Chiles's article the other week about the Albion's record since he started watching the club and it got me thinking as to the team's away league record since I took over the away travel, starting with a loss at QPR on the opening day of the 1984/1985 season. John Homer looked it up for me and said that in 22 and a half years we had won on our travels 115 times (average of just over 5 per campaign!). He wouldn't tell me how many we had lost, as he felt I would get too upset! For the record I have missed 3 matches in this time (all away) at Sunderland (89/90), Ipswich Town (95/96) and Luton Town (06/07) so I am looking forward to my first look at the Hatters this season in tonight's match.

See you on the coaches.

FOR TICKETS CALL
08700 66 2800

ALBION TICKETINFO

NEXT 2 AWAY FIXTURES:



LEEDS UNITED V ALBION

SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY
KO 3PM

Ticket prices are £26 adults, £15 juniors under 16 and seniors over 60. Tickets are on general sale.



HULL CITY V ALBION

SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY
KO 3PM

Ticket prices are £23 adults, £14 juniors under 16 and seniors over 60. Tickets are on sale to away season ticket holders and go on sale to home season ticket holders from Saturday 13th January, to members from Thursday 18th January and on general sale from Wednesday 24th January.



NEXT 4 HOME GAMES:

ALBION V PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY
KO 7.45PM

Tickets are on sale to season ticket holders and members and will be on general sale from Monday 22nd January.



ALBION V SOUTHAMPTON

SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY
KO 3PM

Tickets are on sale to season ticket holders and members and will be on general sale from Monday 22nd January.



ALBION V CARDIFF CITY

TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
KO 7.45PM

We were unable to put these tickets on sale on 4th January as previously stated. A sale date for these tickets is yet to be confirmed. We apologise for any inconvenience.



ALBION V SUNDERLAND

SATURDAY 3RD MARCH
KO 3PM

Tickets go on sale to season ticket holders and members from Thursday 18th January and will be on general sale from Monday 26th February.

Ticket sale dates for the season are shown on pages 50/51 of the programme. It is sometimes necessary to change the dates if fixtures alter or coincide with cup matches. Please ensure you check www.wba.co.uk or our telephone information line before you queue for tickets.

Tickets may be purchased either in person, by phone or online (home tickets only). It is imperative that when purchasing more than one ticket for away matches that you purchase all tickets under one membership number as some ticket sales will be made subject to your booking history.

All tickets are subject to availability.

MATCHDAY PRICES 2006/07

	East Stand Upper	East Stand Lower	Halfords Lane Stand	Birmingham Road End	Smethwick End
Adult	£28	£26	£26	£23	£23
Junior	£14	£13	£13	£11	£11
Senior/U18s	£17	£15	£15	£14	£14
Disabled/Carer	N/A	£13	N/A	£11	£11

TO BUY TICKETS:
08700 662800
FAX: 08700 662801
EMAIL: tickets@wbafc.co.uk

NORMAL OPENING HOURS:

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY: 9AM – 5PM

WEDNESDAY: 10AM – 5PM

SATURDAY NON MATCHDAY: 9AM – NOON

SATURDAY MATCHDAY: 9AM – 3.45PM AND 4.50PM – 5.15PM

SUNDAY MATCHDAY: 9AM TO KICK-OFF ONLY



TALKBACK WITH FRANKSY & REGO

BY MARK REGAN & PAUL FRANKS

MR: Franksy, I'm excited.

PF: I wondered what it was.

MR: There could be a WBA v Wolves clash in the FA Cup!! I think both sets of fans would want that to happen. For once, Baggies fans will want Wolves to win a game. It would be a great occasion for both clubs.

PF: The fact that it would be at the Molineux may be a cause for concern as the Baggies away form isn't great and they wouldn't want to go out of the Cup to their arch rivals, but yes, it would be a game to look forward to no, doubt.

MR: So tonight it's the league and three points up for grabs for Tony Mowbray's men. Luton, like the Baggies, are better at home than they are on the road. Having said that, they took Blues all the way a couple of weeks ago and were only denied a win at St Andrew's by a late goal. So they are still capable of asking more than one or two questions.

PF: We've seen them a couple of times. As you say, they are better at home than on the road but they have one or two players that are attracting a little attention. Rowan Vine for one. He's a goal getter and someone that has been linked with a move to the Hawthorns.

MR: Everyone's been linked with a move to the Hawthorns!!!! Everyone that's at the Hawthorns has been linked with a move somewhere else!! I've been linked, you may have been linked, my dad was "linked". January isn't January without being "linked". Although we earn our corn in the media, I have to say that most of what is written and said in the first month of the year is total rubbish....but not all of it. There are leaks, tip offs and everyone plays the game. Agents call clubs, clubs call agents, players tell agents to call clubs....and when a story does appear everyone denies everything!

PF: I deny everything!

MR: You haven't been "linked" yet.

PF: But you get the feeling there will be movement as far as the Baggies squad is concerned. The fans that call me are desperate to see the likes of Koumas and Davies stay at the Hawthorns. I agree with them. Having made the decision over the summer to stick with the majority of the squad from last season then I think that's what they have to do. We all know Curtis Davies is a class act and that there may be interest in him but if you start selling your best players then you run the real risk of throwing away your promotion hopes.

MR: It's not as though West Brom are twenty points clear. They still have a fight on their hands to get promoted and will need all the quality they can get their hands on to make sure they get it. The Championship is very hard to get out of and this could be a decisive few weeks for the club. Sure they could cash in on players now...but it may cost them come May.

PF: It's a balancing act in many ways and something that the Chairman and manager must agree on. It's no good keeping players that don't want to be here and equally it's no good selling those that bring in short term financial gain. It all has to be part of a plan.

MR: Well it's an interesting time watching who's coming and who's going. Franksy I heard a whisper that you were linked with a move to the bar in a bid to buy two pints of beer!!

PF: I deny everything!

MR: No surprise there then.

BRANCH CONTACTS :

MAIN BRANCH: ALAN CLEVERLEY (SECRETARY)
1 ST. CHRISTOPHERS, HAMSTEAD HILL, HANDSWORTH
WOOD, BIRMINGHAM. B20 1BP TEL: 0121 551 6439

AUSTRALIA: JEREMY BARNES 03 9822 1470

BROWNHILLS: GARY PORTER 01922 442422

CORNWALL: JOHN WILSON 01209 219430

CANADA: MIKE COCKAYNE 604 590 9797

CULLODEN MOOR: ALEX ELLIOTT, 36 SUNNYSIDE,
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DEVON: CARL MARTIN 01803 310415

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DROITWICH: TOMMY MORGAN 01905 774886

EAST MIDLANDS: DAWN ASTLE 07855 724918

GLOUCESTER: JON NORRIDGE 01452 549747

HAMPSHIRE & DORSET: STEVE NASH 01425 620424

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The Hatters are with us today. They have been stuttering as of late and they have sold Carlos Edwards, a star in the making if ever there was one. We must capitalise on that and ensure that the traditional headwear in the Black Country – the cloth cap – is head and shoulders above the straw boater when the contest is over. I'll be glad when it's finished – all week I've had Friday on my mind...

MAIN BRANCH

The next meeting is on Thursday 15th February with special guests Ron Atkinson and Jeff Farmer. It's in the East Stand, 7.30 for an 8pm start. Members only, non-members can join on the night for half the membership fee – just £3.50 gives you membership until the end of the season.

1975/76 PROMOTION DINNER

This will take place on Thursday 8th March in the East Stand. All members of the promotion squad, including John Giles, Mick Martin, John Wile, Ian Edwards, Dave Rushbury, John Trewick and the regular guests such as Tony Brown, Ally Robertson, Ally Brown, Ray Wilson etc have been invited, along with Willie Johnston. Sir Geoff Hurst wuld have been with us, but he's away in Australia at the time. Members of that year's FA Youth Cup squad have also been invited – Mark Grew, Kevin Summerfield, Derek Monaghan and Derek Statham.

The cost is £30 per person, including a three course meal while there will also be an auction. This is a great chance to meet the heroes of Oldham. For bookings, more details and special rates for tables, contact Alan Cleverley or visit the website. Be there or be square!

FINALLY

To everyone who doesn't have a birthday today – a very merry unbirthday to you!

AND FINALLY FINALLY

Thank you to Don Goodman and Bob Taylor for a super evening on 4th January. It was well attended – there could have been more of you there though. Don did say that if you ever wondered why his hair has always been in such a state, it was because he trained as an electrician!

Keep out the 'oss road!

John Homer
Chairman
WBASC





TONY BROWN

It might be a new year, but nothing much has changed, has it? A poor start away from home down at Southend, then some fantastic football back at The Hawthorns to put a smile back on everyone's faces. Southend took the gloss off a very decent Christmas period otherwise, so it was nice to get that little bit of relief from the Championship after that with the FA Cup game last Saturday.

Saying that, I had the butterflies just before the Leeds game which I don't normally get, just because it's great to be involved in the FA Cup once again. The cup has never lost its appeal for me, I still love it when it comes around. And it was a proper old fashioned cup tie with Leeds and the boys did a great job. It was a very open game, lots of goalmouth incident, end to end stuff, a real treat for the crowd I thought. The cup brings that out in games, that sudden death element and there's nothing like it.

To come in after that, with your name in the hat for the next round, that's a great feeling and the dressing room must have been buzzing afterwards. Winning a cup game always gives you that little bit extra because there's an instant reward from it. We don't know who it's going to be in the next round yet, but both games have got something special about them. Playing Wolves speaks for itself, but a return to Oldham would bring back a few memories as well, from when we won promotion in 1975/76. But that's for

a few weeks time. Put all that on the backburner, and let's get back to the business of winning games in the league!

It's a tough away game next weekend, not just because a trip to Elland Road is always daunting, but because they'll be out for revenge from last Saturday. That defeat will still be very fresh in their minds, so they'll be desperate to make amends. But we need to sort the away form out somewhere along the line and there's no better place to do it than that. For all that Leeds are struggling, winning there would be a big scalp, the kind of win that could be a turning point, so it's crucial we go there and play well, fight for those three points. If we could win there, it might spark a run through the rest of the season.

When you have a run like that, it becomes a psychological thing as much as anything else. I know because I've played through times like that. We went 16 months without winning an away game in the league the one time – we didn't win a single one in 1969. Similar to these lads, we'd beat anybody at home, that was no problem. We'd batter teams from all angles but like Tony Mowbray says, away from home we hadn't got the balance, we didn't really have a defensive midfielder, we didn't have a ball winner. Back then, our home form was enough really because it kept us in the top division and we were having great cup runs on top of that. This season is different because we don't want to stay in this

“ I HAD THE BUTTERFLIES JUST BEFORE THE LEEDS GAME WHICH I DON'T NORMALLY GET, JUST BECAUSE IT'S GREAT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FA CUP ONCE AGAIN. ”



league, we want to get out of it! To do that, you need to win some games on your travels.

When you are having that kind of run, you get on the bus and you've always got those doubts in the back of your mind. You're trying to be positive but after you've had that sort of spell, you do get a bit of "Here we go again", especially if you go behind. You get a bit negative which is just human nature. You don't go out wanting to get beat, but you lack confidence. At times like that, you need a break. To be fair, the lads have had some bad luck away from home, the referee missing the penalty on Kamara at Blues, we should have massacred Derby, and then it runs away from you.

Funny enough, we got our break at Leeds back in 1970, the hardest place to go in the country at the time, the last place you'd think we would win. They were going for the title, but I put us ahead and then we had that goal where Colin Suggett was miles offside but the referee waved play on because he wasn't interfering with play. I set Jeff up, we won the game 2-1 and there was a riot, literally! And the pressure goes, and you start afresh then, all those worries go out of your mind and you start taking each game as it comes again. It's just breaking that hoodoo, and if we got a break, a good win, that could change things around. That day, we were all jubilant on the coach, celebrating, than Jim Gaunt, the chairman, got on, "What are you celebrating for? You haven't won in 16 months!" That brought everything back down to earth!

Jeff would have been the one making the most

I ROOMED WITH JEFF AND HE WAS ALWAYS INTO PRACTICAL JOKES. I ENDED UP AS HIS BUTLER IN THE ROOM, MAKING HIS CUPS OF TEA, BRING HIM THE PAPER, HE WAS THE LORD OF THE MANOR.

noise on the coach, because he always was. The only time you ever got Jeff to shut up was if you put him on a plane if we were going away on a tour somewhere. He hated flying, and so did I. We'd end up sat on a plane, braced for disaster, holding hands 'til we got in the air, we hated it. Any turbulence and it was a nightmare, it was comical looking back on it. You've got to remember as well that this was the 1960s when people weren't used to flying, we were getting in these old propeller jobs, so it looked terrifying before you'd even got on there! We had tours to South America, East Africa, New York, Canada, long haul things. The tours were never really my kind of thing, nor Jeff, because we were always wary of the flights back!

Whenever we were away especially, he used to keep everybody happy, he was the joker and he'd keep your spirits up. I roomed with Jeff and he was always into practical jokes. I ended up as his butler in the room, making his cups of tea, bring him the paper, he was the Lord of the Manor. There was never a dull moment with him, very boisterous, you couldn't miss him about the place. You never saw him down, he was always full of life, even before games. If things weren't going right, he'd be trying to lift them. He was a

manager's dream in the dressing room, always bubbly, getting people in a good mood. He was a one off, completely!

You'd come in from training and find he'd nailed your shoes to the floor. There's the famous story that one day, John Osborne had bought a flash new suit. He went out to warm up before the rest of us and while he was gone, Jeff cut the legs out of his trousers and put them on, like he was wearing shorts. He ran outside and of course, Ossie was in hysterics seeing him wearing these ridiculous shorts. Jeff walks up to him and says, "What are you laughing at? These are your trousers." So then we'd got Ossie chasing him round Spring Road trying to wallop him! The lads had to have whip round after training so Ossie could go and get a new pair of trousers from West Bromwich!

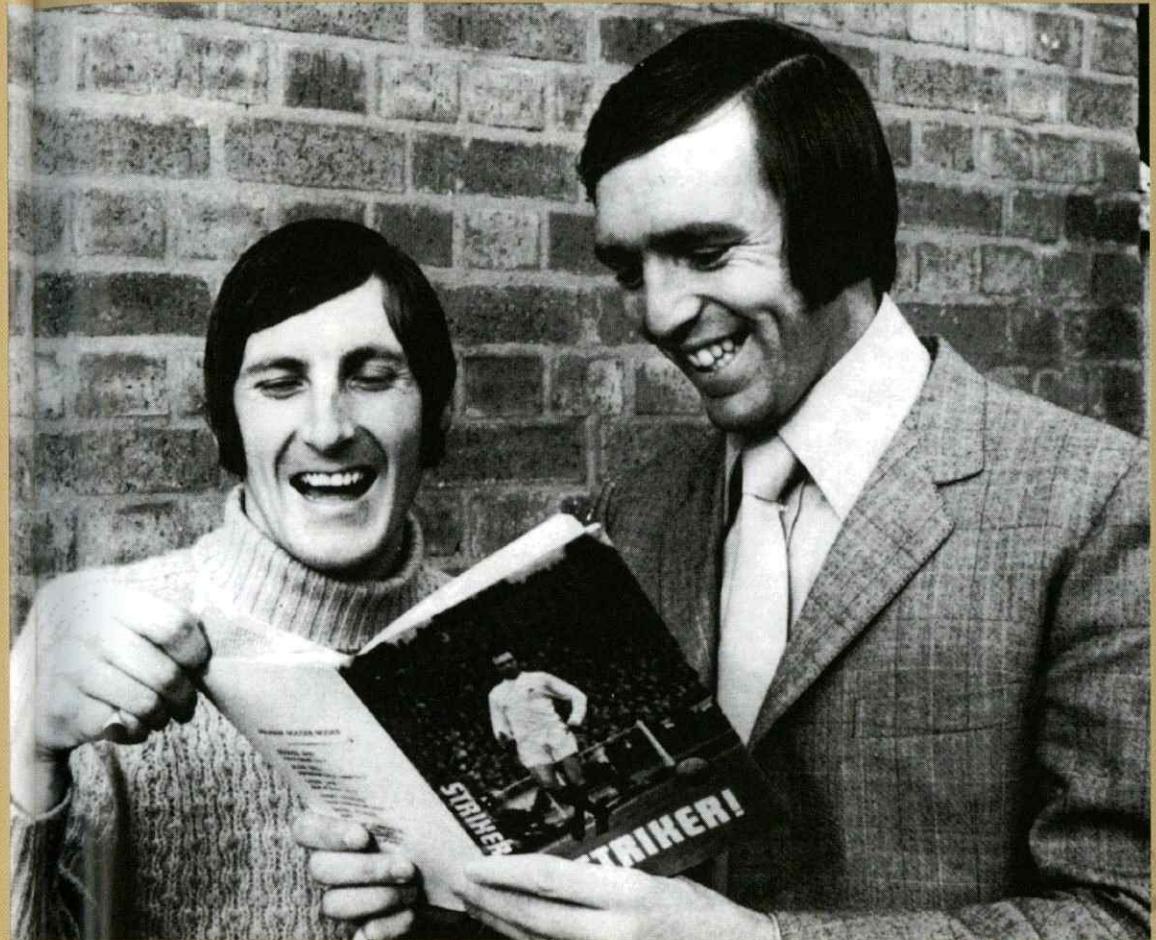
I think he had the same impact with England, the boys who went out with him said the same, that he'd keep it lively. I think he was the only one who ever got Sir Alf Ramsey a bit flustered because of the way he was, I think he was too big a character sometimes, not what Sir Alf was used to.

He wasn't our captain, but he took some of that role because if you weren't doing your job, he



would steam into you, didn't matter who you were and that was a big bonus with him. If he had a go at you, there was no comeback to Jeff. You took it on board.

When he finished playing, it was a tough period. We'd been relegated and he'd struggled to get fit for a long while. He had a torrid time with his knees. He had all four cartilages out in the end. I always remember after he had the first one out, when he came back for his rehab, trying to walk round the



track at Spring Road. He was shuffling along like an 80 year old, a bit of a contrast from when he was running round pretending to be a racehorse. Back then, it was a big operation, and to have all four out, he was never the same after. When he finally finished, he left a massive void, on and off the pitch. He was a great player, leader of the line, scored goals for fun. He had an aura about him, opposition teams would look at him and you knew they were frightened of him and that's a big advantage. There aren't many like that, you can't replace people like Jeff.

AC

The New Year dawned clear and bright. My, how excited I was making my way to Southend. Then, as soon as I saw the ground, I knew there was not going to be a happy outcome. Obviously I never think there's going to be a happy outcome but I was even more sure than usual on this occasion.

I was sitting at the end of the front row of the not especially lavishly appointed directors' box. I was surrounded on three sides by Southend fans. When the first goal went in I felt very, very lonely but, having made a New Year's resolution to be more positive, I told myself there was plenty of time to turn it round.

At the moment the second goal went in I resolved to give up being positive this year. I'll give it another try in 2008.

To make matters worse a large Essex-type bloke sitting about six rows away started yelling at me.

"Oi, Mister Chai-Yowls," he shouted. I pretended to be talking on my mobile and avoided catching his eye.

When the third one went in he was it again: "Hey, Mister Chai-Yowls, what do you make of that?"

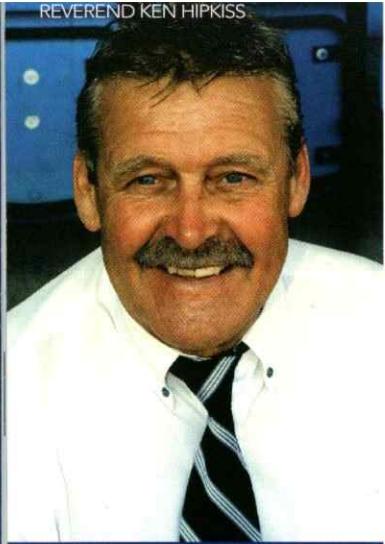
Again I just about managed to avoid engaging with him. If another goal went in though, I felt sure I would explode. To be expelled from the directors' box for fighting would not have been a great start to 2007 so I managed to get myself transferred to the away end where, surrounded on all sides by fellow sufferers, it was all somehow easier to bear.

Against Leeds, having just come off air covering Tamworth vs Norwich, I was in the somewhat more luxurious soft seats here at The Hawthorns. In its own way this was just as challenging as I was sitting next to Martin O'Neil. This was an awkward situation to be sure.

I don't know who he'd come to watch and he wasn't going to tell me but I assumed it was Jason and/or Curtis. So every time either of them did anything good I snorted with derision, intimating that it really was a very rare occurrence. Conversely, every time one of them did something less good I harrumphed knowledgeably as if to suggest that they were always but always misplacing passes or being caught in possession.

Needless to say, Martin paid me absolutely no attention whatsoever. ■





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Reverend
KENHIPKISS
WEST BROMWICH ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB

The game of football is as complex as life itself; it's as much about confidence and application as ability and tactics. Certain people stand out in any group; you can spot them on the football field. Why? Their sense of direction - an assurance that they know where they're going! Their awareness of their own abilities! Their sincerity! Their past successes! Their ability to make eye contact and use body language! In a word - confidence!

Confidence is taking your present situation - whatever obstacles you are facing, whatever limitation you are living with, whatever chronic condition wears you down, whatever has smashed your dreams, whatever factors in life tend to push you under - admitting you don't like it, but never saying you can't cope. The moment you say you can't cope, you are failing to draw upon the resources that are within you. Confidence means having the ability to stand up to any test.

There are certain things we can do to give us

It is with deep sadness that WBA FC records the passing of Don Beddard on December the 27th 2006. Don had been ill for sometime but had borne his trials and tribulations with a steadfastness arising from his Black Country roots and his family upbringing.

Don was born on February 24, 1930 and was an Albion supporter from childhood. Living in Smethwick he could walk to the ground, and he would often reminisce that, even as a young boy, he would queue overnight for big match tickets. Thus from an early age, Don had blue and white blood running in his veins. His wife, Jaci, was his childhood sweetheart. They went up the Albion together when they were teenagers.

Once an Albion fan always an Albion fan. Don always enthused about his idols such as Jackie Vernon and Ray Barlow and the players from the great 1954 cup winning team. A long time season ticket holder, his fanaticism led to closer ties with the club. As a supporters' club member, he became chairman of the Halesowen branch in 1982, eventually becoming chairman of the main branch, a position he held with dignity and aplomb. In 1991 he became chairman of the Shareholders Association, never afraid to express his views and forthright opinions, always with the interests of the club, its shareholders and its supporters at heart. He was a fine ambassador for West Bromwich Albion.

His successors in the role of supporters' club chairman will all testify to his willingness to help with any functions, problems or tasks that needed attention. The current secretary of the supporters' club, Alan Cleverley, is full of praise for Don. "He was very welcoming when I joined the supporters' club, and when I became secretary he went out of his way to be very helpful. I was elected chairman of Daryl Burgess's testimonial committee and he was the first person whose advice I sought. His advice was always sound, and I could not thank him enough for all the help he gave me. He will be greatly missed and the Hawthorns will be a sadder place without him."

Dave Holloway, former chairman of the main branch says that, "Don was exceptionally helpful toward me. He was a father figure to everybody and he looked like a chairman and conducted himself as such." Current chairman, John Homer reflects that "Don had an air of charm about him, a warm smile and dignity which befitting the offices that he held."

Club secretary / director Dr John Evans adds, "Don was extremely active and very helpful to me when I joined the club. I was aware he had been ill for some years and was very sad to hear the news of his passing." The officials, players and staff of West Bromwich Albion Football Club would like to express their sympathy to the family and friends of Don Beddard, a lovely family man, a gentleman and a true Baggie. He will be sorely missed.



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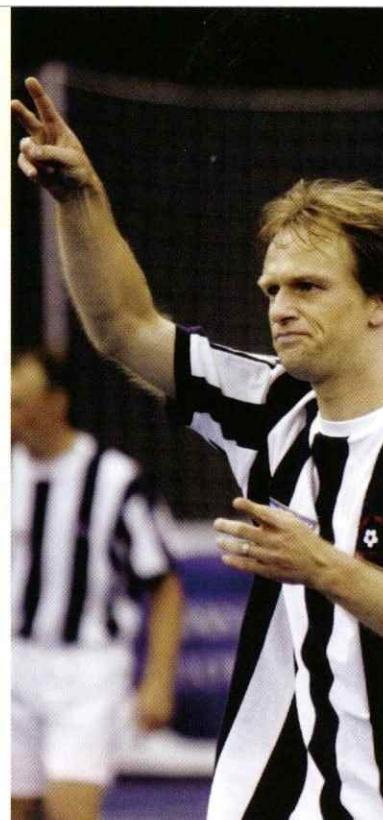


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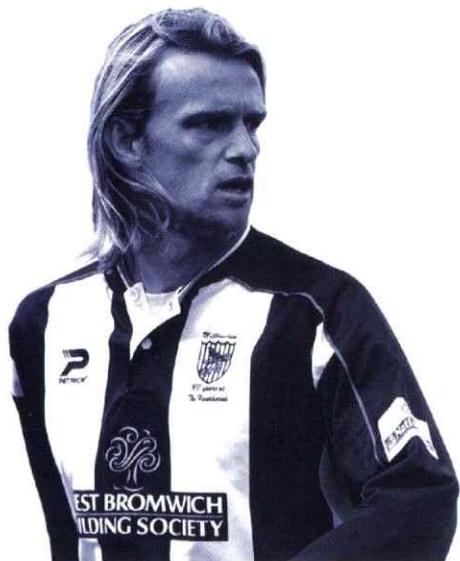
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Richard SNEEKES

It's good to see that Albion came through in the third round of the FA Cup and, even better, a very interesting draw for the fourth round depending on what happens between Oldham and Wolves in their replay.

It's sad to see that at some of the games last Saturday, there were so many empty seats for the third round, which is always one of the most exciting days in the season. For me, the FA Cup is a very special competition. Even though I was growing up in Holland, it was always a big day when the FA Cup Final came around. One Saturday afternoon somewhere in May, you made sure that you were at home in front of the TV set to watch the Final. People got really excited, really tense, even though we had no teams involved, because it was a very big day. Now, some of that seems to be lost.

A little bit of the charm of it seems to have gone, but maybe that's because the final has not been at Wembley for such a long time. Wembley was the home of the competition and not going there has taken something away from it.

Ticket prices might also have something to do with it because season ticket holders actually have to pay to get in for these ones rather than having paid up front at the start of the season. Like Albion, a lot of clubs have put price reductions in place to try to attract crowds but without success, because the crowds were a lot a smaller than you would expect. If Birmingham played Newcastle in the Premier League last season, it would be a sell out but in the cup, last week there were big gaps all around.

I think that the way the big Premier League clubs have treated it hasn't helped too, with the way they concentrate on the Champions League. That has transformed the way people look at football, the FA Cup is now the third in line behind that and the Premiership, so people don't give it the respect they should. If a club doesn't put out its best team, why should people pay good money to watch it? A lot of them see it as a nuisance and that is sad.

For me it has always been something that is a huge thrill. I played in the League Cup Final at Wembley and that was a great experience, even if it was the



ugly stepsister of the FA Cup. To go and play in an FA Cup Final should be a dream but it doesn't seem that way now.

Cardiff is a great stadium, it is a great venue. There's nothing against it, but it's new, it doesn't have the history associated with Wembley, it doesn't have that magic. Wembley was the FA Cup so to take that away took away the dreams you had as a kid. It may even take the new stadium a little while to attract the same glamour, but I hope it does because the competition needs to become stronger.

At least in this area, the next round will be very

spicy so long as Wolves beat Oldham in their replay. It gives Wolves a big incentive to get through that game so they can be at home to Albion. Those are the sort of games that go in folklore in the local area so it would be a peach of a tie, one that would light the area up.

Even so, the big thing that matters is that Albion go on and do well in the Championship because it's pretty unlikely you could go and get to the cup final this year. Promotion is our biggest challenge for this year and hopefully we can keep on with our very good home form tonight and make sure that we get three more points towards our main objective. ■

TONY MOWBRAY



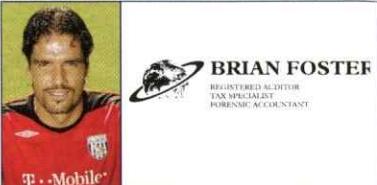
HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

MARK VENUS



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

01: PASCAL ZUBERBUHLER



HOME. MIKE THOMAS
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

15: DIOMANSY KAMARA



HOME. GRAHAM BARTLETT
AWAY. MARTIN BULLOCK
THIRD. -

16: ROBERT KOREN



HOME. DAVE MORRIS
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

17: DARREN CARTER



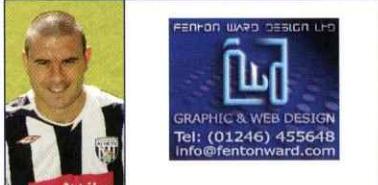
HOME. AMANDA COOPER
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

02: STEVE WATSON



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

03: PAUL ROBINSON



HOME. NIKKI TIMMIS
AWAY. JON ROUND
THIRD. CKW

04: CHRIS PERRY



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

18: THOMAS GAARDSOE



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

19: JASON KOUMAS



HOME. -
AWAY. KASDON ELECTRONICS LTD
THIRD. -

20: PAUL MCSHANE



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

05: NEIL CLEMENT



HOME. REBECCA SMART
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

06: CURTIS DAVIES



HOME. STEVE FAIZY
AWAY. COLIN GRIFFITHS
THIRD. -

08: JONATHAN GREENING



HOME. COLIN GRIFFITHS
AWAY. NIKKI TIMMIS
THIRD. LISA DOLLOWAY

21: KEVIN PHILLIPS



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

22: STUART NICHOLSON



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

23: JEFF FORSYTH



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

09: NATHAN ELLINGTON



HOME. ANDREW PESTRIDGE
AWAY. MARTIN BULLOCK
THIRD. -

10: JOHN HARTSON



HOME. COLIN GRIFFITHS
AWAY. COLIN GRIFFITHS
THIRD. -

11: ZOLTAN GERA



HOME. JON ROUND
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

24: RONNIE WALLWORK



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

25: RUSSELL HOULT



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

26: ROB DAVIES



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

12: RICHARD CHAPLOW



HOME. -
AWAY. JON ROUND
THIRD. -

13: LUKE STEELE



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

14: MARTIN ALBRECHTSEN



HOME. LISA DOLLOWAY
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

27: ROB ELVINS



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

28: JARED HODGKISS



HOME. -
AWAY. -
THIRD. -

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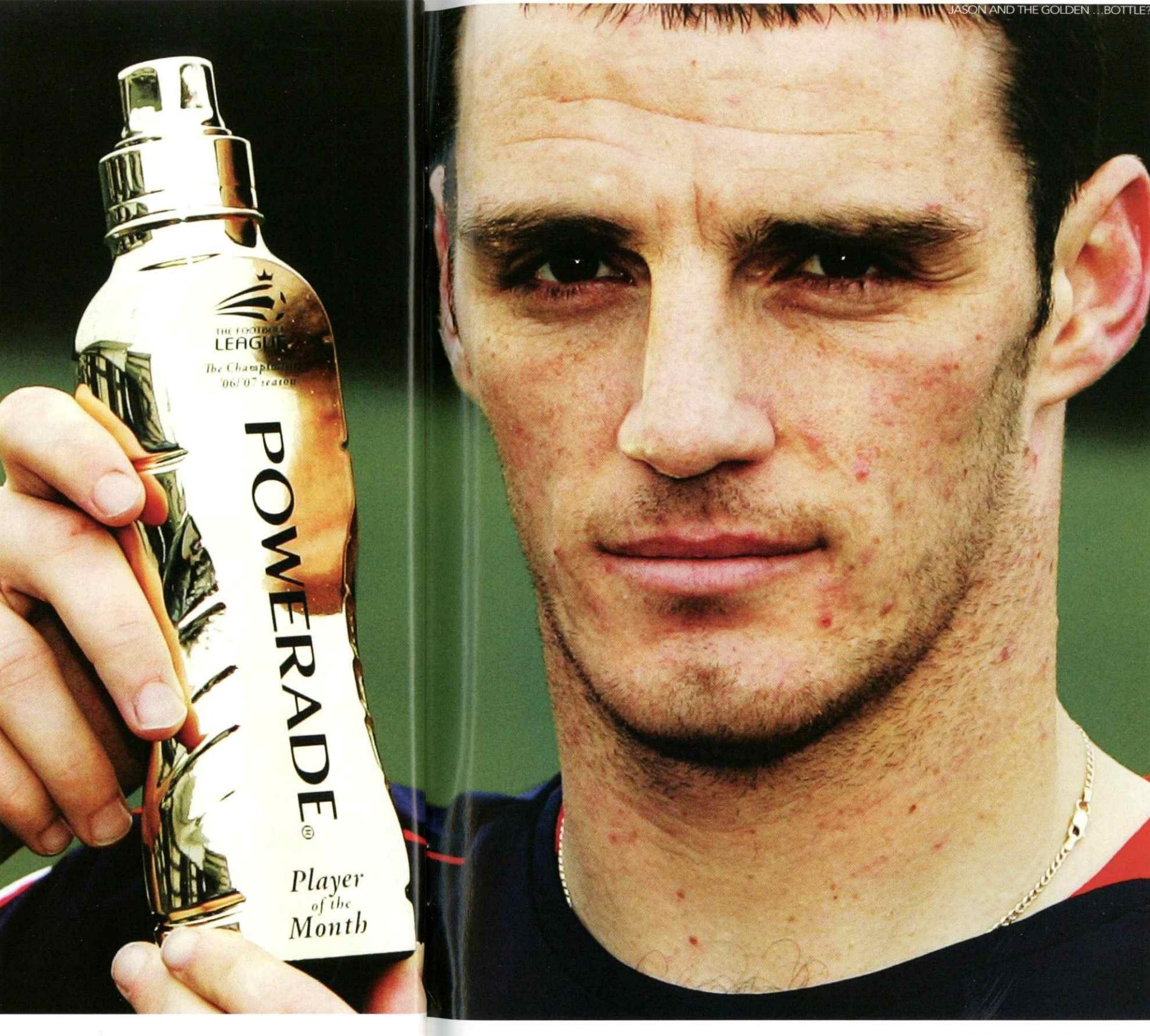
JASON AND THE GOLDEN ...BOTTLE?

Ok, so it used to be a Golden Fleece that Jason and his Argonauts of Greek myth were after, but the latter day Jason prefers to fleece the opposition for a golden goal or two.

Four of them came his way in December as the Baggies went unbeaten in six games through the month, making it a pretty straightforward choice when it came to selecting the Powerade Player of the Month.

Koumas follows in the footsteps of Diomansy Kamara who took the prize back in October. Which Albion player will be picking it up in February?

It's written in that Greek myth that Jason could only have his rightful place on the throne back once the golden fleece was restored to the country. Similarly, it is written in the Book of Albion that the Throstles can only have our rightful place in the Premiership back once Jason was restored to The Hawthorns. Spooky....



CLUB & COUNTRY

Jimmy "Spud" Murphy did not, as the name might suggest, represent the Emerald Isle in international football, but instead made his name in the red shirt of Wales as an industrious wing-half who read the game particularly well. His intuitive understanding of football and footballers was ultimately to keep him in the game throughout his lifetime, working as assistant to the great Matt Busby as they built one wonderful team after another at Old Trafford, Murphy also keeping the club together in the wake of the Munich air disaster in 1958 when his boss lay in a hospital bed.

Murphy came to the Albion as an 18 year old in 1928, but he had to be patient before he got his chance, playing only sporadically for the first three or four seasons until he finally replaced Tommy Magee, the only player to win both League Championship and FA Cup medals with the Throstles.

During his time in the Albion XI, Murphy played a couple of games in the famous "Double" winning season of 1930/31, though he missed out on the Wembley showpiece. That oversight was addressed in 1935 when he played for the Baggies against Sheffield Wednesday in the FA Cup Final, though sadly Albion slipped to a 4-2 beating.

Meanwhile, Murphy was slowly accumulating caps for Wales, having made his debut in November

1932 in a 0-0 draw with England. Murphy could not have battled his way into the Welsh team at a better time for more than 50 years after the Welsh had played their first international, against the Scots in March 1876, they ventured beyond the shores of Great Britain and Ireland to play their first "foreign" international, against France in Paris, Jimmy's third cap, playing alongside Albion colleague Walter Robbins. The 1-1 draw was to be the last such trip of Murphy's playing career with his country, for they quickly reverted to playing just the home internationals. So infrequent were the games that despite being a regular for five full years, Murphy collected just 15 caps for Wales, his final appearance coming at Ayresome Park in November 1937, when the Welsh lost 2-1 to England, Stanley Matthews getting one of the goals for the home team.

His international career was already over by the time war came, as was his time at The Hawthorns, moving on to Swindon in March 1939. During the war, Murphy served with the Eighth Army, meeting Matt Busby while in Italy, beginning the partnership that would ultimately rebuild and transform Manchester United. Murphy was the perfect foil for Busby, but he was also a decent manager in his own right, managing Wales from 1956 to 1963 – his legacy there will remain forever as the first, and still the only, man to take Wales to the World Cup Finals, in Sweden in 1958. He guided Wales to the last eight of the competition where it took the genius of a teenage Brazilian called Pele to defeat them by a single goal. Whatever happened to him?

JIMMY MURPHY

WALES, 15 CAPS

V ENGLAND, WREXHAM, 16 NOVEMBER 1932
 V IRELAND, WREXHAM, 7 DECEMBER 1932
 V FRANCE, PARIS, 25 MAY 1933
 V SCOTLAND, CARDIFF, 4 OCTOBER 1933
 V ENGLAND, NEWCASTLE,
 15 NOVEMBER 1933
 V ENGLAND, CARDIFF, 29 SEPTEMBER 1934
 V SCOTLAND, ABERDEEN,
 21 NOVEMBER 1934
 V IRELAND, WREXHAM, 27 MARCH 1935
 V SCOTLAND, CARDIFF, 5 OCTOBER 1935
 V ENGLAND, WOLVERHAMPTON, 5
 FEBRUARY 1936
 V IRELAND, BELFAST, 11 MARCH 1936
 V SCOTLAND, DUNDEE, 2 DECEMBER 1936
 V IRELAND, WREXHAM, 17 MARCH 1937
 V SCOTLAND, CARDIFF, 30 OCTOBER 1937
 V ENGLAND, MIDDLESBROUGH,
 17 NOVEMBER 1937



DURING THE WAR,
 MURPHY SERVED WITH
 THE EIGHTH ARMY,
 MEETING MATT BUSBY
 WHILE IN ITALY,
 BEGINNING THE
 PARTNERSHIP THAT
 WOULD ULTIMATELY
 REBUILD AND
 TRANSFORM
 MANCHESTER UNITED.

SOUTHEND UNITED 3 ALBION 1

COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP
Roots Hall, Monday 1st January 2007
Attendance: 9,907
Photos: Laurie Rampling

New Year's Day. The sound of Scotsmen, real and pretend, singing Auld Lang's Syne still ringing in our ears on the long, long journey down to Southend. It's a Robert Burns song, all about absent friends. Perfect preparation for a day when the team that looks so impeccable on home soil just didn't turn up in the more humble environs of Roots Hall. That's not to say that there was any lack of any effort from the yellow and green clad Baggies, but overall, as captain Curtis Davies said afterwards, "We were embarrassing".

Almost from day one, manager Tony Mowbray has praised the attacking quality in the squad that he inherited, while bemoaning the lack of balance in that unit. Albion have only one midfielder who could be described as destructive in even the very loosest sense, but Quashie was absent from a second consecutive traveling party, leaving the rest of his team mates to try to make the best of things, employing the five man midfield that had functioned so sweetly in the second 45 minutes against Ipswich just 48 hours earlier.

Any fond hopes that that line-up might deliver a similar performance and result was brushed aside after just 11 minutes. Jason Koumas cleared a Southend corner, out as far as Campbell-Ryce, some forty yards from goal. Drifting past a couple of Albion tackle, he cut in from the United right to fire a 20 yard shot across the face of goal and into the corner of Russell Hoult's net, the goalkeeper apparently unsighted as the ball flashed past him. A bad start, but not disastrous with 80 minutes still left to play.

Koumas almost brought the Throstles back on terms within eight of them, when his 30 yard free-kick had Flahavan diving to make a good low save, but the game was drifting towards stalemate as the half hour mark approached, Albion fans hoping that we could at least get to the break in no worse a position than 1-0 down and then perhaps look more like our home form suggests in the second period. No such luxury.

Twenty-eight minutes in, Campbell-Ryce, without a league goal since October 26th 2002, with only two league goals in 109 league games before this one, got his second of the afternoon - it was that kind of day. A routine ball into the box from McCormick on the left was won comfortably by Bradbury, heading the ball into the path of Campbell-Ryce who drove the ball into the exact spot he'd put the first one, volleying in from 20 yards.

And then it just got daft. Four minutes from the break, Gower played a corner to the left corner of the box where Maher, utterly unmarked, had time to steady himself and float a hanging ball across goal for the equally untroubled Hunt at the back post. Hunt, a marginally less prolific marksman than Campbell-Ryce, headed in his first ever league goal in 117 games. Yes, it really was that kind of day.



It could have been better, worse, worse then better in that order in a frenetic few minutes to half-time, the otherwise peripheral Gera volleying wide from 20 yards, Gower latching on to a ball over the top before shooting wide from similar distance, Hoult then just about dealing with a long range effort from Maher, Diomansy Kamara at least ending the half on a positive note with the first decent effort from the Baggies, getting onto a good pass from Paul Robinson, running through the inside-left position and firing off a fierce shot from a tight angle that Flahavan did well to save.

The 33 year old Kevin Phillips was withdrawn at the break after running himself into the ground over the Christmas fixtures, along with Gera and Martin Albrechtsen, John Hartson, Neil Clement and Nathan Ellington given the unenviable job of salvaging something, anything, from the game. And the second 45 minutes saw an improvement, though not enough to ever threaten an unlikely recovery, and perhaps, in no small part, due to Southend's willingness to simply hold what they had. That said, Hartson caused the centre-backs some moments of discomfort and Clement's hunger for the game after his lengthy lay-off was also good to see.



Koumas and Jonathan Greening fizzed efforts wide in the first couple of minutes and had either of those gone in, nerves would have begun to jangle at the team that's bottom of the Championship. But Albion's early impetus was gradually quelled and Southend were next to come close, Hoults finding a fine reflex save to deny Barrett who got a strong header to a deep cross from Eastwood. On the hour mark, Campbell-Ryce even threatened an incredible hat-trick, trying to latch onto a weak back pass, Hoults swiftly off his line to clear just ahead of the midfielder.

A glimmer of hope shone through on 63 minutes when Darren Carter's corner was glanced across goal for Hartson to poke home at the far post, but the Albion onslaught that should have signaled did not materialise, though credit has to go to the home side who were disciplined and determined in defence, fighting desperately to keep hold of the points they'd worked so hard for in the first 45 minutes.

So well did they do their job, it wasn't until the 87th minute that Albion looked likely to grab a second, Koumas' dangerous cross flicked on by Kamara, Ellington unable to do enough to get on the end of it at the back post.

A grim, grim afternoon on the south coast, a salutary reminder that individuals don't win you more than the odd game. They never have, because they only turn up intermittently. Success comes from a team, playing together, fighting for each other and for the club that employs them, the supporters that follow them. Eleven of them united, doing whatever job is demanded, even if it means individual sacrifice. The team is the thing. That comes first, second, last. Nobody ever won anything playing in a team of one. Let's quash that myth, hammer it home. Playing for yourself brings failure, year, after year, after year. You can bet on it.

But let's not be too dismayed. It's a new year, a new start. A new collective spirit. That'll put us where we want to be.

TEAMS

SOUTHEND UNITED:
Flahavan, Hunt, Clarke, Barrett, Hammell, Campbell-Ryce, Maher, McCormack, Gower (Francis 85), Eastwood (Hooper 85), Bradbury (Harrold 89).
Subs Not Used: Welch, Riera.
SCORERS: Campbell-Ryce (11, 28), Hunt (41).
BOOKED: Maher (64), Eastwood (78).

ALBION:
Hoults, Albrechtsen (Clement), Davies, McShane, Robinson, Gera (Ellington), Carter, Greening, Kamara, Koumas, Phillips (Hartson).
Subs Not Used: Zuberbuhler, Chaplow.
SCORER: Hartson (63).
BOOKED: Phillips (38), Greening (53), McShane (67), Carter (71), Robinson (82).

TONY MOWBRAY:

"We just weren't good enough. It's almost like a long-play record, away from home we have deficiencies. We keep searching for the answers to put them right but haven't found them yet.

"To be fair, you've got to give the Southend lad a bit of credit. He won't strike two better shots than that from 20 yards. We were then chasing the game, but from our point of view, we just weren't good enough on the day. People score great goals. But we didn't move the ball or play off the front well enough.

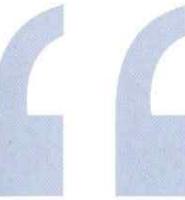
"We've struggled away from home all season and today was *deja vu*. It was pretty typical of our away performances. We are very fluent at home but we don't seem to find that fluency away. We looked at a different formation today to try to change things but the result suggests it didn't work.

"You make substitutions to try to change the course of the game and give the team a different direction and focus. I asked the players to go out and try to win the second half, not that it mattered in the end, but they did. We didn't concede in the second half, scored a goal and could have had one or two more. Fortunately, we've been pretty formidable at home and that is keeping us in touch and there or thereabouts."



HISTORY

Team of the Century



THE MAN MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHANGE WAS RAMPAGING RAY BARLOW, A GENUINE GIANT OF A HALF-BACK, WHO LINKED TREMENDOUS ENERGY WITH RARE PROMPTING SKILL AND ROUNDED OFF A GREAT DISPLAY WITH THREE SHATTERING SHOTS AT THE WOODWORK.



Anew year brings with it the promise of new successes, new challenges, new excitement, all the more so if you've already shown quality aplenty in the opening half of the season as the Baggies had in 1953/54. December had seen them stutter just a little compared with the giddy heights of their early Autumn form, Albion winning only one of five games, drawing two others to slip off the top slot and into second behind the Wolves. But if that had put a cloud over Christmas, by the time the last strains of *Auld Lang Syne* were dying away, optimism was back on the agenda and every Baggie in the Black Country was looking forward to what they believed would be the greatest year in the club's history.

There was plenty of time to nurse the New Year hangover because there was no game to get up for on the first day of 1954, which fell on a Friday. The Bank Holiday was bare as Albion readied themselves to play on the Saturday instead, when they would play host to Tom Finney and Preston North End, a testing little starter. That extra day's rest was all to the good as the programme revealed that "Ray Barlow and George Lee were under doctor's orders last week. Ray had a couple of days in bed with a touch of "flu" and George Lee was down with gastritis. George was not able to train until Friday morning when he did a little light work." Frank Griffin had had distractions of a different kind for "On Wednesday morning in the "wee sma' hours" his wife presented him with a baby daughter."

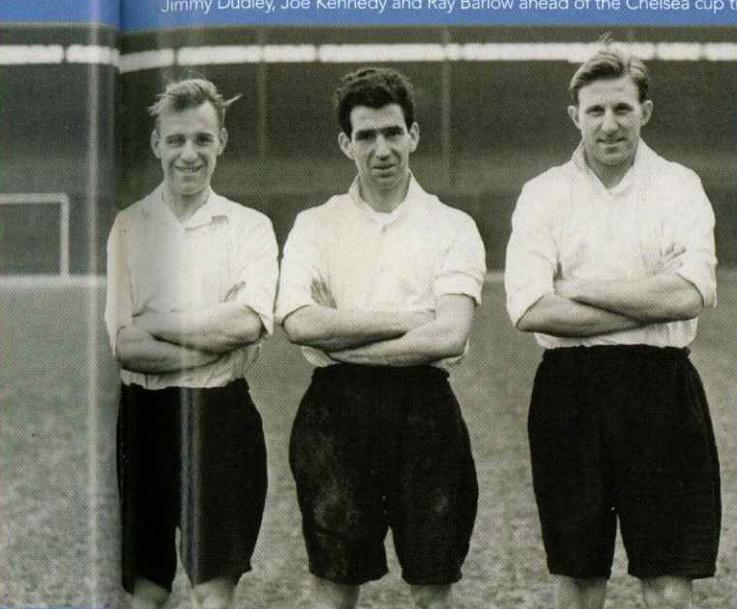
Preston were having a middling kind of season and the Throstles had won 2-0 up at Deepdale earlier in the campaign, but they'd only lost one of their December games so they were not to be underestimated by an Albion side that simply had to win. But as "Albion News" reported – notes apparently written by Dylan Thomas given their black coiling inky obsession with the elemental forces – they were lucky to get the game on at all.

"We have come steadily from the grass covered carpets of the early season to the heavy muddy pitches around Christmas and with winter's icy grip increasing its hold as January winds its way along the frost-bound iron-clad surfaces bringing flighty ball and the awkward bounce. Our weather gave us a sample of its possibilities [before the Preston game], when the wreathing pall of fog remained curling across the pitch all morning. It did not look for some time as if we could play our match, but towards 1.30 the weather lightened and the referee gave us permission for the gates to be opened, as the match could go on."

With the game in doubt until so late in the day, it was no wonder that it got off to a sluggish start, the "Albion News" noting that, "The longer we played the better the weather got, and we found ourselves able to see the scoreboard from the stands. Whether we liked what we saw is a different matter, but the match itself provided us with plenty of good football and thrills." Damned with faint praise or what?

It was half an hour in before the Throstles got their beaks in front, and it was the old firm of Barlow and Allen that gave Albion the advantage as "Albion News" explained: "Ray Barlow again provided us with a sparkling display of ball control – his work preceding Ron Allen's first goal being particularly outstanding. What a finish Allen applied to Barlow's cross – few people realised the possibilities until after Ron had shot home a head high ball that was passing behind him with a grace that would have done credit to an acrobat." The national press were equally impressed: "The first goal, from a Barlow cross, was an amazing overhead kick from 12 yards. The ball passed under the end of the bar with Thompson completely deceived. Allen was a forward line all on his own."

With Preston still dazed, Allen had doubled the advantage within five minutes, getting on the end



Jimmy Dudley, Joe Kennedy and Ray Barlow ahead of the Chelsea cup tie

smashing left foot drive by Morrison three minutes later brought Preston back into the game. And when he scored a second 20 minutes afterwards Albion looked like crumbling." But these Baggies knew the importance of this fixture and they hung on doggedly to collect the two points that were essential to their hopes of the title, the more so since Wolves were winning at Ninian Park.

Those League worries could be put on ice for a week though as Albion readied themselves to enter the FA Cup fray with a daunting tie against Chelsea, who had put them out of the competition at the fourth attempt the previous year. A colour clash meant that both sides changed shirts in spite of Albion having home advantage, the Baggies wearing white shirts, Chelsea sporting red.

Albion were nothing like the composed side that home supporters were used to saying, facing as they did a young Chelsea side that was on its way to being a power in the land, a season away from winning the League title for the first time – and only time until Jose Mourinho appeared on the scene 50 years later. Ted Drake was the manager and "Drake's Ducklings" were unbeaten in a dozen games going into this fixture, making them a tough proposition.

The Daily Herald noted that, "In a fierce, full-blooded affair, on just about the muddiest pitch of a mainly dry season, Chelsea's shock tactics almost succeeded in rocking West Bromwich out of their normal rhythm. Certainly the Chelsea "bite" in the tackles upset the Allen-Nicholls moves; and it was not until the second half when Albion spread the ball more instead of trying to keep it close, that the West Bromwich attackers became really dangerous. The man most responsible for the change was rampaging Ray Barlow, a genuine giant of a half-back, who linked tremendous energy with rare prompting skill and rounded off a great display with three shattering shots at the woodwork. Barlow was Albion's inspiration."

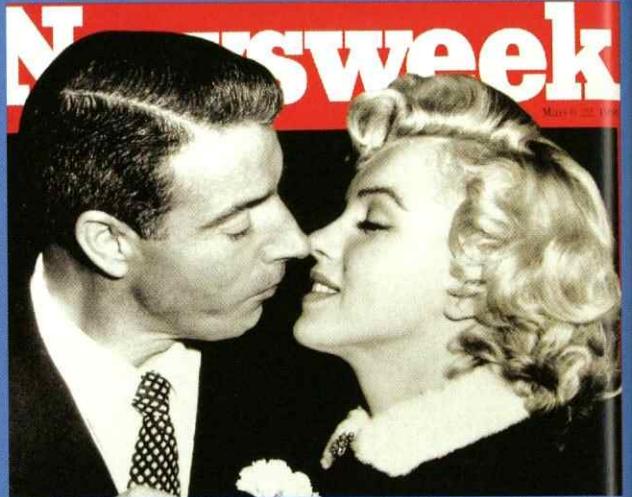
At 3-0 after 54 minutes, it seemed like game over, but Preston suddenly found a second wind and, "A

HISTORY

Team of the Century

In spite of that change in fortunes, it looked as though the Baggies would have to endure frustration and an unwanted replay at Stamford Bridge, the scores still locked together at 0-0 with 83 minutes on the clock. Then full-back Stan Rickaby advanced and got a volley in on goal. The Daily Herald reported the aftermath: "On his knees after the diving header that misdirected Stan Rickaby's shot into his own goal, Chelsea centre-half Ronnie Greenwood beat the ground in his despair when he realised what had happened, only seven minutes from time. But everybody was so sympathetic after the game he probably feels better about it now." "Ronnie" Greenwood, later the West Ham and England boss, probably didn't feel that great. A chance to win the FA Cup comes seldom even to the very best players. So Albion moved one step closer to their first FA Cup Final since they'd been defeated by Sheffield Wednesday back in 1935. When the draw for round four gave them a home tie against Rotherham United, there was yet more cause for cautious optimism, though nobody was treating the game as a foregone conclusion given that the Millers were in the thick of the promotion race, pushing for a place in the top flight – they would eventually finish fifth with Leicester City and Everton getting promoted.

But enough of the FA Cup, back to more mundane matters and a fascinating week in the news. On the Monday, two days after Chelsea had been beaten, flashing indicators were made legal on cars as opposed to the little flag indicators they used to have. 53 years on and some people still have no idea what they're for. Then, on January 16, Marilyn Monroe married the great baseball player Joe



Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe married in January 1954 and still in the news



Jimmy Dugdale blocks Roy Bentley in the 1953 cup saga between Albion and Chelsea

I AM PREPARED TO ARGUE THAT ONLY TWO MEN CAN COME INTO THE EFFECTIVE PICTURE WITH THE BALL AT ANY GIVEN MINUTE – THE MAN IN POSSESSION AND THE MAN TO WHOM HE PASSES. I REALIZE COLLEAGUES MAY BE DECOYS AND OPPONENTS MAY BE TAKING UP STRATEGIC POSITIONS, BUT BASICALLY JUST TWO MEN ARE CONCERNED.

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TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
FOOTBALL AND ATHLETIC COMPANY LIMITED

Official Programme
AND RECORD OF THE CLUB

SACRISTY: R. S. JARVIS
Team Manager: A. H. ROWE
Match Officer: Dr. A. E. TUGHAN

Chairman: FRED. J. BEARMAN
Directors: F. JOHN BEARMAN, Wm. J. HERET, E. DEWHURST HORNBY, G. WAGSTAFFE SIMMONS, F.J.L. FREDK. WALE

PRICE: TWOPENCE

VOL. XLVI. No. 37 **SATURDAY, JANUARY 16th, 1954**

WEST BROMWICH HERE TO-DAY

This afternoon we have one of the season's most anticipated matches, when our old friends and rivals West Bromwich Albion are here. Their visit this season is more closely linked than in previous years with their Manager is our old friend and player, Vic Buckingham.

As we all know, Vic gave the Spurs many years of service and as a player we were his only professional club. He left the close of his playing career to become Manager of Bradford. After a short stay with them he was appointed Manager of West Bromwich Albion towards the end of last season.

Their playing record to date shows how successful he has been. For many weeks they led the field at the top of the table, but during the last few weeks they have had to share this position with West Bromwich. The League tables will show that before to-day's game the Wolves are leading by one point, and it looks as if the two clubs will have a rare battle for the championship. The two clubs, Huddersfield, are five points apart.

We have had exciting battles with to-day's opponents in both Cup and League over many years. It will be seen we have lost our last two matches in the League to-day, we are hoping the tide will turn in our favour and we know our boys will fight hard to break the losing sequence. When we were at West Bromwich on September 5th the Albion won 3-0.

The results of our meetings with them since we returned to the First Division are as follows:

1. A team played an away Football League match and had only nine players throughout the last 70 minutes, yet won six beaten. What were the circumstances?

2. The only player over whom a club's supporters ever complained was a man who was a member of a Football League club manager now. Can you name him?

3. Who was the only player in history, goalkeepers excepted, who always wore headgear when he appeared in Football League matches?

4. How often has it happened that a club has met six First Division teams in the FA Cup in one season?

5. Only one club in football League history has finished first, last, and third respectively in the table in successive seasons. Which was it?

6. When did one club's three inside forwards all appear for another club in the same International Championship matches in the same year?

ANSWERS ON PAGE THREE

OUR BAND WILL PLAY AT EACH HOME GAME

Printed by Thomas Knight & Co. Ltd., The Clock House Press, Huddersfield, Herts

Tottenham programme

DiMaggio, king of the home run. Then again, who wouldn't run home if you'd got Marilyn Monroe waiting there?

There was another home run of a different kind facing Albion on Saturday 16th January when Vic Buckingham had to take his Albion team to White Hart Lane to face Tottenham Hotspur, the club where he had made his reputation and where he had learned so much of the game. He wrote about the parallels and the differences between the two teams.

"[At West Bromwich Albion] the constructive outlook starts with the full-backs, who aim to use the ball to advantage every time they clear. We have the wingers George Lee and Frank Griffin, playing deep, so putting a long pass from back to winger out of the question. These four players provide the framework of the team and the rest fall into the boundaries they set, with all the players in fairly close touch with the men around. We try to move up and down as an entity and the team's pattern is roughly maintained, however much individuals may inter-change positions. We believe that teamwork is better if there is a compact design, because lines of communication are haphazard if the side is strung out over ninety yards instead of fifty.

"I am prepared to argue that only two men can come into the effective picture with the ball at any given minute – the man in possession and the man to whom he passes. I realize colleagues may be decoys and opponents may be taking up strategic positions, but basically just two men are concerned. So we have the side virtually splitting

HISTORY *Team of the Century*

up into groups but they are linked, if the tactical scheme is uniform.

"West Bromwich have not discarded the long pass altogether and we differ from Spurs in its use. Spurs use it diagonally. Ours is a forward pass, like the one right-back Stan Rickaby hits to centre forward Ron Allen, and has the effect of elongating us. In their heyday Spurs had more rhythm than us, wafting across the field in delightful waves. We are less even, more direct and may have a couple of violent thrusts forward to disturb the pattern of the approach work."

When the two styles rubbed up against one another, it was Albion's that prevailed, though they took some time to settle into their best form, Nicholls absent with a back problem, Wilf Carter, only just demobbed from the armed services, taking his place up front. Many of Buckingham's former playing colleagues such as Ted Ditchburn, Ron Burgess, Eddie Baily, George Robb and two

more managerial giants in the making, Alf Ramsey and Bill Nicholson, were still in the Spurs side, and they were determined to put one over on him and Albion were grateful to Norman Heath in the first half, making three fine saves to keep Spurs at bay.

After 35 minutes though, it was Albion on top, Rickaby sending a raking pass to Allen who helped it on to frank Griffin. Griffin's deep cross reached Lee who clipped the ball back across goal towards Allen who volleyed past Ditchburn from 12 yards out. Tottenham enjoyed better possession thereafter, but Albion's defence was magnificent giving them no glimpse of an equaliser, seeing out the game 1-0.

The north London giants were kind to the Baggies that weekend, for while we were winning at Spurs, Arsenal were beating Wolves at Molineux. Albion were back on top with 40 points, Wolves trailing on 39, then Huddersfield and Burnley on 34. A two horse race, through to the finish.



Len Millard and Norman Heath see a Spurs shot to safety.

Player Profile:

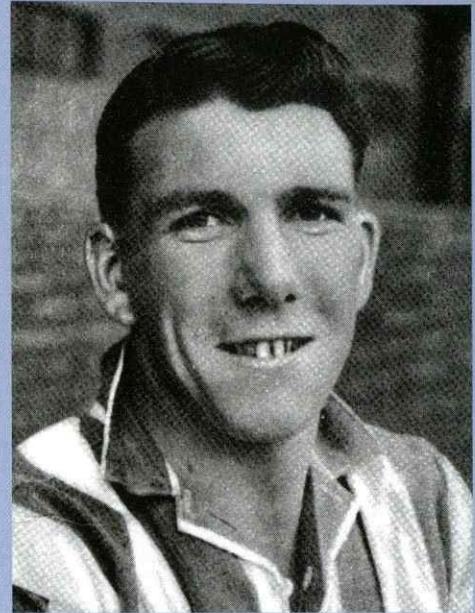
STUART GRENVILLE WILLIAMS (BORN 1930)

Full-back Stuart Williams played in the last eight Albion League games of 1953/54 and must have nurtured hopes of a Wembley Final appearance against Preston, but it was not to be. The Albion Board decided to recall centre-half Joe Kennedy as the full-back replacement for the injured Stan Rickaby and Williams missed out. Earlier the same season, he had filled in capably on a couple of occasions for Rickaby and Len Millard. A week after the Cup Final in May 1954, he won international recognition for the first time, for Wales in Vienna, as one of eight Albion players to be honoured that season in representative football.

Stuart was a versatile player who had his senior debut for Albion in 1952 at centre-forward, but also made first team appearances in several other positions. The son of a Wrexham director, he had played briefly in his home town's first team then joined Albion as an amateur in November 1950, turning professional in February 1951. By 1954/55 he had replaced Rickaby, but then, in turn, lost own his place in December 1955. Williams appeared intermittently in 1956/57 but succeeded veteran Len Millard in 1957/58, partnering Don Howe at full-back. During the summer of 1958 he was the Welsh right-back in all five of their World Cup games in Sweden; Wales reached the quarter final stage where they lost unluckily to Brazil 0-1 when a shot was deflected off Williams' heel into the net.

At Christmas 1959 Stuart again surrendered his Albion place, this time to Graham Williams, only to regain it once more in 1961/62. After playing in the first five games of 1962/63 at right-half, he was transferred to Southampton, where he made a further 147 League appearances, helping the club to win promotion in 1966. He was again denied a Cup winners medal in 1963 when Southampton lost to Manchester United at the semi-final stage, but in a case of third time lucky, he was a Wembley winner as trainer of Albion's 1968 team managed by Alan Ashman.

Stuart actually played for Albion's first team in 12 consecutive seasons, but was only a first team regular in three of those. During his time at the club he became its most capped player of all time with 33 appearances for Wales (43 all told). He played nine times against England and captained his country on at least 14 occasions in a successful international career which lasted over 11 years.



PLAYER STATS:

226 League games (6 goals); 20 Cup ties (3 goals)
First team debut v Floriana (h) 14 May 1951
League debut v Huddersfield Town (a) 16 February 1952
Last match v Sheffield Wednesday (a) 1 September 1962
Career: Victoria Youth Club, Wrexham, Birmingham City (trial), WBA (1950-1962), Southampton (£15,000, 1962-66), WBA (trainer-coach 1966-69), then trainer at Aston Villa, Payhaan (Iran), Morton, Southampton (coach, assistant manager 1971-73), Carlisle United (scout), Stavanger (Norway, manager), Southampton (trainer)
Honours: Wales v Austria 1954 and 1955; England 1954, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964; Ireland 1955, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962; Scotland 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964; Israel 1958 (twice); Hungary 1958 (twice), 1961, 1962 and 1963; Mexico 1958 and 1962; Sweden 1958; Brazil 1958 and 1962 (twice); Republic of Ireland 1960; Spain 1961 (twice); Denmark 1964 and 1965.

By Colin Mackenzie

"That's all Folks!"



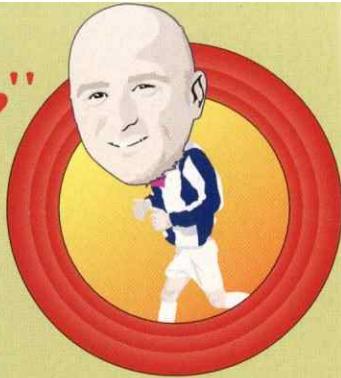
Jeff right in tune

ONE of the most closely guarded secrets of the soccer season is the title of the disc West Bromwich Albion centre-forward Jeff Astle has made for an international recording company.

Jeff is apparently so well in tune with modern musical trends that his vocalising is expected to make an impact high up in the charts.

But the wraps are not expected to come off the publicity blurb for about three weeks — so be patient you pop fans.

Cartoon by Norman Edwards, reprinted courtesy of the Birmingham Mail.



1971. What a year for music. Nursery Cryme. Blue. All Things Must Pass. Hunky Dory. The Yes Album. Led Zeppelin IV. Sticky Fingers. And, pop pickers, "Sweet Water", the debut 7" waxing from Jeff Astle.

Produced by Carl Wayne of The Move, the King's single raced to number one. In West Bromwich and in the Disc-A-Sound shop chart in Wednesbury. It didn't do so well elsewhere. Which proves, conclusively, that beyond the Black Country, people have cloth ears.



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ALBION

01	PASCAL ZUBERBUHLER	
02	STEVE WATSON	16/1
03	PAUL ROBINSON	33/1
04	CHRIS PERRY	40/1
05	NEIL CLEMENT	16/1
06	CURTIS DAVIES	20/1
07		
08	JONATHAN GREENING	12/1
09	NATHAN ELLINGTON	
10	JOHN HARTSON	4/1
11	ZOLTAN GERA	6/1
12	RICHARD CHAPLOW	16/1
13	LUKE STEELE	
14	MARTIN ALBRECHTSEN	33/1
15	DIOMANSY KAMARA	7/2
16	ROBERT KOREN	7/1
17	DARREN CARTER	16/1
18	THOMAS GAARDSOE	
19	JASON KOUMAS	9/2
20	PAUL MCSHANE	
21	KEVIN PHILLIPS	4/1
22	STUART NICHOLSON	
23	JEFF FORSYTH	
24	RONNIE WALLWORK	
25	RUSSELL HOULT	
26	ROB DAVIES	
27	ROB ELVINS	
28	JARED HODGKISS	40/1
29		
30	LUKE DANIELS	
31		
32		
33	MICHAEL NARDIELLO	
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41		
42		
43		
44	NO GOALSCORER	8/1

LUTON TOWN

01	MARLON BERESFORD	
02	KEVIN FOLEY	50/1
03	SOL DAVIES	50/1
04	CHRIS COYNE	40/1
05	RUSSELL PERRETT	66/1
06	PAUL UNDERWOOD	
07		
08	STEVE ROBINSON	25/1
09	ROWAN VINE	9/1
10	WARREN FEENEY	11/1
11	DEAN MORGAN	12/1
12		
13		
14		
15	STEPHEN O'LEARY	25/1
16	LEWIS EMMANUEL	25/1
17	RICHARD LANGLEY	18/1
18	AHMET BRKOVIC	18/1
19	SAM PARKIN	
20	ADAM BOYD	12/1
21	KEITH KEANE	40/1
22	DANNY STEVENS	
23	DEAN KIELY	
24	SHAUN ROSS	
25	LEON BARNETT	
26	MARKUS HEIKKINEN	
27	PETER HOLMES	20/1
28	DAVID BELL	20/1
29	CALVIN ANDREW	
30		
31		
32		
33	DEAN BRILL	
34	ZAC BARRETT	
35	CHRIS PENDLETON	
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43		
44	NO GOALSCORER	8/1

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: J. MOSS
ASSISTANT 01: M.A. ASTLEY
ASSISTANT 02: M. MATADAR
4TH OFFICIAL: K.A. FRIEND

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