

## BOUNDARY



## BULLETIN

Vol. I, No. 25

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PRICE I/-

## DISCUSSING DEBUTS

with no regrets, says "Mac"

MANAGER 'Mac' showed no sign of regrets. He looked at the list of this season's debutants in tangerine and blue, and sighed: "I wish I could have put a couple more in the side. I get a kick out of watching youngsters emerge as first team candidates—and I don't feel that any of them have let me down."
'Mac' was discussing the reasons—and his timing—behind the

introduction of so many players into the side for the first time. In less than nine months 12 players have been brought into the side. And 50 per cent. of them have been youngsters with little more than a general grounding in the junior teams or players quite fresh out of their teen years, writes Paul Doherty. It's doubtful whether any League club has put so many players in

the firing line for the first time this season.

Added the Oldham boss: "It has been said that debuts are given rather freely here, but young players have only been promoted to the first team through a set of circumstances. The particular reason for making a first team change has been the loss of form of the experienced player who would normally be automatic choice.

"I want the young fellows to experience a lot in a short time, and I believe I am achieving this. The fact that I train with the players every day gives me an indication of their progress, and this is a valuable factor when it comes to assessing whether a youngster is ready to be plunged in.

"I am throwing young players in at the deep end, and due to the needs we have had I feel this has been the right thing to do. The risk is calculated-it's not hit and hope team selection, for as I have just pointed out I am with these boys throughout the

week and know the extent of their ability and the stage of development they have reached.

Mac' looked through the list of first-time appearances and considered the question I threw ... "Which debut has given me the greatest pleasure?" he considered. "I think the appearance of Joe Makin among the seniors must be the one. For Joe was the first of the apprentice players to be blooded in the League side. Blair and Foster had become full-time professionals when they were called up.

The reason for so many of them making their opening appearances away from home is simply because I feel that we have lost a little bit of the backing the town gave us earlier this season. They are disappointed that we have not done so well as we said we would. And while this feeling exists among some fans, I would not like them to turn any wrath on a youngster stepping out for his very first game.

ONE player has been eyeing the first team fixture list with special interest in the last few days. For there's a whisper going round Boundary that boss Jimmy McIlroy is keen to finish the 1966-67 programme with all the promising young reserves having sampled senior football.

Chances have already been accepted very gratefully by wing-half Ronnie Blair, winger Les Chapman and now full-back Joe Makin teenagers who have been holding their places in recent games. And

Tony Foster had a sprightly run in the attack earlier this year.

Next in line . . . it could be another of the Irish clan, 16-year-old Dublin-born Michael Nolan, who now seems established in the Lancashire Combination team. And the young six-footer is the player who has been weighing up the remaining League match list to see how much time he's got to make his first mark.

Blair had his first chance in the AWAY match at Shrewsbury, Chapman stepped up when the team VISITED Bristol Rovers, while Makin was promoted for the TRIP to Watford. As a matter of debut interest, centre-half Allen Hunter had his baptism AT Bristol, too, while leader Ian Wood was reintroduced to the League XI for the first time this season when the side TRAVELLED to

Workington last Boxing Day.
The theme is unmistakable. Young talent can be fragile and each one has been handled with care into the hurly burly of League They have been allowed to test the temperature of the new playing conditions without having thousands of critical eyes glued to their performance—which must only increase the bewilderment involved in a debut. They've been 'blooded' away from home. Now only one match remains away from Boundary

Park. That's at Reading next Saturday, and if the whispers can be counted true and the pattern as predictable as it seems, then Nolan will be polishing up his boots with extra fervour in the next few days.

When the Latics chief gave a vote of confidence to Makin's progress last week he admitted that Nolan was also coming under consideration. Quite obviously, the hopes of the former Eire schoolboy star were riding with Joe's form since manager 'Mac' wanted to use Makin as a yardstick to test the improvement of the older apprentice players.

Now he knows. And Makin came through comfortably. So there are two games to go, and quite possibly one of them could be a red-letter day for Nolan. He won't bother about superstitions if the opportunity does arise . . . for the next debutant at Latics will be the 13th to make his bow in the first squad this season.

PAUL DOHERTY

### ONE DOZEN **DEBUTS**

League Life with Latics (1966-67) Started Here

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Keith Bebbington	20th Aug. 1966	(H)	Leyt'n O.	(W.	3-1)
Billy Johnston	20th Aug. 1966	(H)	Leyt'n O.	(W.	3-1)
George Kinnell	20th Aug. 1966	(H)	Leyt'n O.	(W	3-1)
David Best	3rd Sept. 1966	(H)	Swansea T	(W	4-1)
John Collins	29th Oct. 1966	(H)	Torquay U	(W	5-0)
Ken Knighton	19th Nov. 1966	(A)	Q.P.R.	(W	1-0)
Jim Curran	10th Dec. 1966	(H)	Reading	(L	1-3)
Ronnie Blair	21st Jan. 1967	(A)	Shrews. T.	(L	1-3)
Tony Foster	4th Feb. 1967	(H)	Col. U.	(W	4-0)
Allen Hunter	11th Feb. 1967	(A)	Bristol R.	(L	1-2)
Les Chapman	11th Feb. 1967	(A)	Bristol R.	(L	1-2)
Joe Makin	22nd Apr. 1967	(A)	Watford	(D	2-2)

(D 2-2)



### **GROWING TO** BE NEXT IN LINE

MICHAEL NOLAN is now 6ft. lin. It's not the only advance he has made since he arrived at Latics last July from Dublin club Larkview.

Nine months of regular soccer action, including nearly two dozen outings with the Lancashire Combination side, have helped his full-back performances grow in stature as well.

That's why he now stands hot favourite as the next Oldham prospect for a debut—and maybe, as the front page story hints, before this season's events are all wrapped

"It's been said that I might get "It's been said that I might get a chance in the first team. That's up to the boss. He knows best when I'm ready. But I'd love to have a crack at it. I don't reckon all that much to the Lancashire Combination—the standard of football is not as good as in the 'A' and 'B' teams. There's more physical contact involved in the Combination." Michael told the Bulletin this week.

The next fortnight could be important for him, but there's a close-season date that should have more significance. For on July 8th the ex-Eire schoolboy star—he was capped against Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland — celebrates his 17th birthday. This day makes him eligible for full-time professional

It was while playing for the Eire team against their rivals from North of the border that Michael was spotted for Latics. Coach Bertie Neill, who was on scouting duty at this time, was impressed with the style of the youngster and quickly made soundings for his services.

He discovered that Wolves and Blackburn Rovers were also in the hunt and had offered trials. "But Bertie explained that I would get far more opportunity at a place like Oldham, and I was convinced with his argument. That's why I turned the others down," Michael revealed.

Shortly after leaving the Cabra Technical School in Dublin he made tracks for England and apprentice forms with Latics.

Michael has two brothers — 11-year-old Ronnie, who is shaping into a soccer enthusiast, and 14-year-old Des, who is the odd-oneout with little interest in the sport. But the Nolan name should be known in Dublin footballing circles for his uncle, Ronnie Nolan, has been on the books of leading club Shamrock Rovers for close on 15 years.

Michael is critical about his progress. He reflected: "I had a wicked game for the 'A' team against Manchester City recently when nothing seemed to go right. I do wish I could do a lot more attacking from the full-back position, I have a great admiration for players like McCreadie at Chelsea and the German international Schellinger they do the kind of things I would love to be able to follow. On the credit side, I think my size is proving an asset to me."

He plans to return home to Dublin at the end of May and he'll pack his close-season holiday with plenty of basketball and hurling, the other sports he has a craze for. Then it's back to duty on July 14th when the junior players will join some of

the other staff in freshening up parts of the ground with a coat of paint. But inbetweentime Michael is hoping he'll have told the folks at home he has been a Latics first teamer . . . if only for a fleeting moment.

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## Home Bound



The close-season has arrived early for 17-year-old inside-forward Alistair Doyle. He was recently told to return home for the rest of the season and have a complete rest for the leg which he broke in a training fall at the Canon Street gymnasium on Monday, January

The hairline fracture of his left fibula had healed, but after each come-back game with the juniors Alistair was reporting soreness with the injury. He had to quit the field before the end of an "A" team match with Manchester United, and it was obvious that the hard grounds were causing the discomfort.

With little possibility of ground conditions changing it was decided that the best cure would be to send the player home and allow him a complete rest. He left for home-town Coleraine on Saturday, April 15th, and will keep the club in touch with his progress before reporting back in the summer

Another inside-forward casualty, Billy Johnston, has also been busy making arrangements for a close-season return to Ireland. He plans to leave next week when the reserve team programme is finished (the last game will be against

Lytham tomorrow).
Up-to-date, Billy has had five runouts with the reserve squad as part of his come-back programme following the dreadful ankle injury he received at Middlesbrough in the first team last at Middlesbrough in the first team last September. There has been no possi-bility of his recovery in time for a League outing, and medical advice is that Billy should "get away from it all." He's been told to get plenty of walking exercise and golf games before he returns for training in July.

 Here's the address to note for all the fans who wish to air their views in the Dear Sir columns. Please send your letters to: The Editor, 356, Corn Exchange Buildings, Cathedral Street, Manchester 4. This is the central sorting office for Bulletin mail and queries. And if your query is urgent, ring DEAnsgate 7931 for the Editor.

## FILM STAR LOOK FOR **CHARITY MATCH?**

THE stars of show-business are still being lined up for the special charity match at Boundary Park on Wednesday, May 10th (kick-off 7.30 p.m.). The match, organised in aid of the Oldham Carnival, will be between the Northern T.V. team and a Celebrity Select.

Latest personality to accept an invitation to turn out is Bob Lang of the Mindbenders pop group. Other stars from the record-making business are also checking their diaries hoping to find the 10th a blank date.

And a big-name surprise will be in store. Contact has been made with a world-known film star, a keen soccer enthusiast, who has promised to try and fly up from London for the match. He plans to confirm his availability next week — and stand by for a ticket sell-out if he is going to be in action.

Names of personalities who have agreed to play have already been detailed in the Bulletin (Edition No. 24), and it is not our intention to hint at possible players-too many fans get disillusioned when the stars billed to play do not actually appear due to late commitments.

Granada T.V. and the Scene programme will provide a big contingent of players—men like Alan Towers, Chris Kelly, Bob Greaves, David Duffy and Brian Truman. Well-known programme editor and What the Papers Say expert, Bill Grundy, will also be on duty while Stuart Hall, from Look North on the rival channel will also be in the T.V. team.

Don't forget to keep the Wednesday evening date at Boundary Park. Stand tickets will be on sale within the next few days, all priced 5s. each and admission to terraces will be 2s. 6d.—any part of the ground.

And don't think there will be no football flavour. Both teams will have famous ex-players in their ranks, including former Manchester United forward stars Charlie Mitten and Johnny \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Morris as well as Manchester City's assistant manager Malcolm Allison.

That's not all. Players from both Manchester clubs will be attending the game and lines-men will be wingers George Best (United) and Mike Summerbee (City). Make a date then . . . 7.30 p.m., Wednesday the 10th. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### NAME YOUR TOP MAN

I suppose Nottingham Forest is the I suppose Nottingham Forest is the team to really capture the imagination this season. Title-chasers (though a little forlornly now), and F.A. Cup bidders they seem to have been moulded into a power combination overnight, for last season they nestled sixth from the bottom of the First Division. Division.

If you are a Scot, however, your preference may be for the stunning feats of Celtic, the latest being their arrival in the European Cup Final—the first British club to achieve so much in this competition.

Behind every club, and each success, there is usually a personality. Some-body who really sticks in the memory. The man you remember may be from Forest . . . or Celtic. Or somewhere else.

Who do you think has made most impact on the sport this season? Name your Top Person, whether he's a player, manager or back-room boy, and state the reasons for your choice. I threw this challenge down in the Bulletin last Tuesday night, and the competition remains open until first post on Tuesday, May 9th. A panel of celebrity judges from Lancashire soccer clubs will view the entries and the winner selected will receive two complimentary stand seats for the final home match of the season, against Watford, on May 13th.

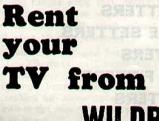
Send your entry to: Top Man, 356 Corn Exchange Buildings, Cathe-

dral Street, Manchester 4.
Remember, anybody connected with football counts in this competition. It may be the unorthodox selection which will appeal to the judges so don't think the outcome is predictable.

#### THIRD DIVISION HOT-SHOTS F.A. League

			League	Cup	Cup	Total
Rodney Marsh (Queen's Park Range	ers)		29	3	11	43
Don Rogers (Swindon Town)	4		22	7	1	30
Ian Towers (Oldham Athletic)		***	27	0	0	27
John Manning (Shrewsbury Town)						
(7 for Tranmere Rovers)			22	3	2	27
Stuart Brace (Mansfield Town)			21	3	2	26
Bill Curry (Mansfield Town)			21	3	1	25
Reg Stratton (Colchester United)		***	24	0	0	24
John Fairbrother (Peterborough Un	ited)		17	3	3	23
Arthur Horsfield (Middlesbrough)			22	1	0	23
George Harris (Reading)		•••	22	1	0	23







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BALL POINT PENS		9d.	
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## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

JOE MAKIN'S displays in the last two League games give some indication of how far this talented youngster has progressed since he joined us. It is barely twelve months since Joe signed the forms, making him our first apprentice professional, as an inside-left.

Such are the surprises in life that he is now giving professional performances at right-back. The blooding of youngsters like this is invaluable to them, they learn more from one League game than twelve in the reserves. It also removes the unknown from their mind when called upon to play regularly.

Incidentally, Joe joined Ian Wood and Les Chapman to become the third local boy in the team, so bearing out Jimmy Mac's promise of searching for home grown talent and give it the opportunity to prove itself at home.

It is also one in the eye for those cranks who have alleged that you can't progress here unless you have an Irish accent.

We were very pleased to receive Football League permission last week to stage a special charity game between two sides of celebrities at Boundary Park on Wednesday, May 10. The Oldham Carnival are backing the project and from the names I have already heard lined up for the evening it should be an all-star

The Northern TV team, who play for charity every Sunday, will be skippered by well-known 'telly' face Bill Grundy, who is also a prominent programme producer for the goggle box. The opposition will contain some headline names from Showbiz and such stars as pop singer Kenny Lynch will be flying up from London to play.

These lads take their soccer quite seriously, although they play for the laughs, too. I think it quite admirable that such personalities, who must be burdened by commitments in their hectic world, are willing to take time off to raise money for such causes as the Cancer Relief Fund, Spastics, Old Folks Homes etc., etc. sincerely hope the Oldham public will give the occasion full support and make it worthwhile for the volunteer organisers running round to bring big names to Boundary

Apparently, the last time a game of this nature was staged there was a remarkable turn-up of fans. It was remarkable turning of talls, it was the day following a home match with Peterborough United, a League fixture which drew something like 24,000 spectators. And the Showbiz game the following day attracted an attendance around 26,000. Comedian Dave King and singer Tommy Steele were among those playing and obviously were the crowd-pullers. I don't think people disappointed this time. will

The Third Division promotion race continues to be rather like this year's Grand National with favourites tumbling in a heap every week. But with an eye to next year it would be helpful if Middlesbrough made it at the last minute. With their large crowds at Ayresome Park (even in adversity) and resources they will be better off in the Second Division and so cut off our way next

In welcoming Swindon Town, we are entertaining this year's F.A. Cup giant killers. Fancied for promotion at the start, they had a bad start in the League. Until recently they were languishing in the relegation but in a fine late run they have shown the form that they are known for and must present a formidable challenge to us this evening and next season.

One of the more pleasant items of news this week was that the 'Sun' newspaper is no longer in danger of closing. I have always regarded its sports column as one of the better on the market and would have been very sorry to see them go. Good wishes to writers Frank Clough and Len Node and their colleagues and more power to their elbows and ears.

This weekend is deadline time for the Rhodesian tour. Political difficulties have made the Zambesian part of the tour impossible, but our contact man George Kerr is hoping to arrange alternative fixtures else-where. By April 30th we will know if he has succeeded.

After a long, hard season our junior teams are at last turning the corner. The youngsters have taken some frightful beatings against bigger and older opponents. Rochdale, for example, fielded seven firstteamers against the Athletic team recently, but a double over Burnley, a draw and a win against Bury, and a fighting 1-1 draw with Man-chester United at The Cliff last week are encouraging signs that the policy is slowly paying off.

So are the supply of young players -Steve Hoolickin and John Cook signed apprentice forms last week. bringing our number of apprentice professionals up to six, which is amongst the highest in the Third

The youth policy, as I have said before, is a long, hard, unspectacular and often frustrating exercise. United laid the foundation of theirs before Don Revie became manager, and this season it is really paying off.

The draw for the right to purchase a Cup Final ticket on behalf of centre stand members and covenanters will take place shortly and those successful will be notified by post. The full list will be printed in the Bulletin for the Watford match.

### SECRETARY SENT TO COVENTRY

LATICS secretary Bernard Halford was sent to Coventry last week . . . officially. The differ-ence was that all the officials at Latics were keen to talk to him.

It's not a contradiction. The Coventry in question was the "real McCoy"—Highfield Road, Coventry, home of the Second Division's promotion stars. And he was there to pick up tips about the development of revenue-raising methods, which is an item close to the heart of many football club directors these days.

Bernard followed up his trip to the Midlands boom club by journey-ing down to last Saturday's match at

ing down to last Saturday's match at Watford to get an insight into the operation of their pool, which is proving highly profitable.

This week he filed a report for the Laties board and some eyeraising figures came to light. It's estimated that Coventry are pocketing something like £1,000 per weekfrom their pools system, which is a sound basis for any club to build from.

The spadework behind the project has been quite ambitious, for Bernard points out that Coventry gave themselves eight weeks to campaign and organise membership by selecting areas and canvassing doorto-door. They even employed a staff of 14 with this sole object—nine sales reps in vans covering the areas and five in the main office handling books and other

involved. The pool has its own board of directors, though no members of this body sits on the club's board.

In slightly over a year—they got the pool launched last March—the hard work is bearing fruit. When they got under way they had 35,000 members and 600 agents. Now has mushroomed to 120.0 120,000 members with 2,500 agents.

It's an attractive gamble for the fans, too. Coventry only take 2d. from each of the bob tickets and the balance is paid back in prize money after tax and expenses have been deducted in the usual manner.
That £1,000 weekly profit is more

than Latics receive in a month.

"They have some very progressive ideas at Coventry and I feel the journey was well worth while. Exchange of visits like this must be helpful, and I found the Coventry officials delighted to assist with facts and figures and giving a clear insight into their methods.

"Of course, we have to remember that there is red-hot competition for pools members in this area. Man-chester United swallow up a lot of the customers and it is my opinion that Oldham would need a pool with 35,000 members basing it on Coventry lines, to be as successful. That would result in something like £608 per week being offered as prize money, which is an attractive proposition," Bernard informed the club this week.

#### Revenge bid in Cup

It can only be classed as a consolation trophy, but you know what they say about half a loaf being better than none at all. That's why Latics are determined to land this year's Lancashire Senior Cup prize after accounting for three opponents on their way through to a final match against the Fourth Division

promotion contenders from Barrow.
The tie takes place at Boundary
Park on Tuesday, May 9th, under the
lights, and Latics will be bidding for
their first Senior Cup success since
they carried off the trophy in
1907-08 they ca 1907-08.

1907-08.

There's also another reason why Latics are keen to do well. They want to avenge another Cup event that happened at the start of the season when Barrow chalked up a 2—1 success in the League Cup first round at the Holker Street ground.

There have been no shortage of changes since that clash last August 24th. Just take a look at the Latics

line-up on duty that day: Swan (gone to Luton); Ledger (injured for rest of the season), Hall

(emigrated to South Africa); Frizzell, Asprey, Bowie; Towers, McIlroy, Blore, Johnston (making his comeback after injury), and Dearden (now with Crewe). Substitute was Peter Mitchell, who has since had his contract cancelled.

Here's the Oldham record in the

Senior competition this season. 21st Sept. v. Manchester United (home) 2-1—Frizzell and Kinnell

scored.

13th Dec. v. Bury (home)
Collins and Wood scored. Bury (home) 2-1 -21st March v. Southport (home) 2-1

—Towers and Knighton scored.

### "Quick Quotes"

pic pic

"Our Cup tickets allocation has always been the same, and 18 is a lot of friends even for a footballer." Charles Pratt, Chelsea chairman.

"There is a definite swing by League clubs in favour of Sunday football." Alan Hardaker, Football League secretary.

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ok \*

"I am sure this problem of swearing on the football field would blow over if referees decided to first ask a player who let rip with his tongue to apologise." Matt Busby, Man-chester United Manager.

\* \* \*

"All the coaching in the world is of no use if the natural ability isn't there, but in Blackpool's case I believe it is and shall work on that assumption until I prove myself right or wrong," Stan Mortensen, Blackpool manager.

"Men like Clough (Hartlepools United) and Ashman (Carlisle United) will be the top managerial names of tomorrow. They will be talked about with the same rever-ence as Matt Busby or Bill Shankly today." Don Revie, Leeds United

#### OLDHAM ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS' CLUB BINGO

MONDAY: 62 14 60 21 23 90 3 457 20 31 76 42 37 30 TUESDAY: 5 50 4 74 1 10 80 29 41 2 WEDNESDAY: 61 86 26 3 55 49 81 67 11 88 THURSDAY: 41 21 62 87 77 66 39 69 7 FRIDAY: 55 73 6 43 19 38 25 75 54 32

DAILY DRAW MONDAY: 01 07 36 TUESDAY: 04 06 21 WEDNESDAY: 24 25 42 THURSDAY: 01 20 36 FRIDAY: 08 37 39

WIN A MINI-Week No. 7: 30 36 46

### MAKIN WHOOPEE

#### "It's great" -says Joe

Joe Makin survived his home-and-away ordeal and had only one assessment to give about Third Division soccer when I spoke to him this week, "It's great. A lot faster—but great," he repeated.

It's the same description he gave to his switch into the full-back spot earlier this year. But he meant it just as seriously this time, writes Paul Doherty.

Joe became the 12th member of the staff to make a League debut for Latics this season and the latest



of the junior prospects to be given a taste of what will be required in the future. The 16-year-old full-back, who started his soccer career with the intention of being a left winger, made his debut at Watford last Saturday and was successful enough to retain the rôle for his first home appearance in League colours against Oxford United on Tuesday night.

But the first team break has come far sooner than the young apprenfar sooner than the young apprentice expected. Even when he saw his name pinned on last Friday morning's team sheet with 11 other players he wasn't counting his chickens.

"I did get a few butterflies before "I did get a few butterflies betore I left the house on Saturday morning, knowing I was going with the first team and had a chance of playing. But they soon went, I wasn't really convinced I would be in the team until Ian Towers passed me a newspaper report that I was playing when we were half-way on our journey," Joe recalled.

#### DOWNGRADED

He also recollects how he nearly put a blemish on his League bow. "I won't forget it in a hurry, I nearly gave a goal away, I tried to

put the ball back to David Best, but it wasn't very good and their fellow was on it and got a cross in. It was a relief to see the ball cleared," he went on.

Before the game Joe received "good luck" messages from chair-man Ken Bates and club coach Bertie Neill.

There has been an amazing somersault in the fortunes of the lad from Ancoats. I plainly remember earlier this season when he was a dejected figure in Oldham's Youth Cup squad which had only just been vanquished from the F.A. Youth Cup on Manchester City's ground.

Joe gave a disappointing display on the left wing in the 4—3 defeat last November and was down-graded in plans. What must have made it more galling was the fact that the Maine Road club were keen on signing him before he joined Latics.

Slowly he restored his confidence, changing his duties in the team and showing up with particular promise at wing-half, But another conversion quickly followed, and it is only a dilittle over two months that he was given his first introduction to the full-back position—against Nelson in a Lancashire Combination match.

Since then life has been looking up. He settled well in the number two shirt, and his promotion clincher came in a practice match run-out against Rochdale's senior line-up at Spotland in the early part of last week. Los delighted manager of last week. Joe delighted manager
'Mac' with his display and was
rewarded with the Watford debut.
Despite his current happiness, Joe

hasn't sold himself on the idea that hasn't sold himself on the idea that he'll be working from deep in defence for the rest of his life. He told me: "The boss has explained that football turns out such a funny game that you never know what's in store in the way of switches and moves. So I'll agree with him. I'm enjoying the full back's job, but I've got an open mind about the future."

One of the proudest fans among Tuesday night's lowest-of-the-season League gate was Joe Makin . . .

League gate was Joe Makin . . . senior. The young defender's dad finished his work at the brickyard and went along to watch Joe's first League game for Latics and give some moral support.

#### YOUR ROUTE TO READING

(our next away game)

From Oldham take the road through Ashton-under-Lyne, then Stockport and on to Cheadle. Join the A560 through Cheadle and follow the A34 to Handforth and Wilmslow. When you pass through Wilmslow take the road leading to the M6

to the M6.
Follow the M6 as far as the junction with the A5 at Cannock. Leave the Motorway to turn left and follow the A5 to the edge of Brownhills. Take the A3 to the edge of Browlinis. Take the A446 through Coldshill and Storm Bridge, then on to the A452 for Warwick and the A41 for Banbury. Join the A423 for Oxford and follow it as far as Wallingford. From there the A329 takes

you into Reading.

The distance is approximately 187 miles, travelling time four hours.

#### PLAYERS' PAY DAY-AND NO WAGES **Behind the Scenes**

No. 11: Maurice Watkins

(Assistant Secretary)

HE started as a turnstile operator as long ago as 1939. He volunteered for steward duties. And he spent most Sundays in a season with sleeves rolled up sweeping out the stand with some football fanatic friends at Stockport County's ground.

Really, they have never been able to keep 47-year-old Maurice Watkins to keep 47-year-old Matrice Watkins away from soccer. So despite all the difficult times, like the days only four years ago when he sat in the office of then Stockport County manager Reg Flewin on pay-day wondering where the cash was coming from, he has not had any of his enthusiasm blunted.

That is why he readily accepted the chance to join Latics last November, taking over some of the weight of work done by Bernard Halford and allowing the Latics secretary to concentrate on develop-ing outside sources of revenue. Maurice just knew he had to wait for a comeback chance in soccer, and that's why the assistant's post appealed after four months of virtual inactivity following his departure from the secretary's job with Crewe

Alexandra.

But he's never lifted roots from his home town of Stockport. In fact, he lives with his wife in the house at Edgeley Park where he was from the football ground. The inconvenience of making 28-mile round trips daily to Boundary Park doesn't tempt him to have a change

of heart.

#### ON DUTY

It was as a right half in amateur football — the Stockport Sunday League — that Maurice rubbed shoulders with the game, though he regularly bellowed his support for the lads at Edgeley. He was so keen on County that he volunteered his services for a variety of duties, and that's how he came to be caged behind one of the turnstile doors

behind one of the turnstile doors collecting the bobs from the fans.

"Every Sunday half-a-dozen fans turned up at the ground to clean the place up after a game. I felt that we could possibly do a bit more so I suggested the formation of a Supporters Club. We put the idea to the manager at the time, Andy Beattie, and ended up being called the Testimonial Committee on 12-months trial as an organisation. months trial as an organisation.

"We organised benefit games and they were pretty successful. So at the end of the year the chairman invited us to become the Supporters Club founders—that was in 1954," Maurice related.

Now his heart was set on working in the game and for it. In 1956 he accepted an opportunity to become the club's assistant secretary, which was quite a change from working with his father in the family business with his father in the family business as industrial cleaners. Soon he was giving full time hours to County, and though the club kept an accountant as their official secretary, on a partitime basis, the friendly figure of Maurice Watkins became warmly associated with the Stockport administration.

But Stockport were hitting hard times. The club was being tossed from one crisis to another and boss

Flewin somehow kept the boat afloat with dozens of free transfer signings.

Recalls Maurice: "I felt the club was going to become another Accrington Stanley, though I never told anybody. Some times on pay day I sat in the manager's office and we didn't know how to raise a penny piece. Yet, by some miracle, the directors always managed to carrie the moral forms. scrape the money from somewhere and the players were paid. It was often a close call and once when the players got wind that there was no money to pay them we thought we'd really had it. Again we pulled through. And the club pulled through.

#### FOLDING UP

"I was thinking of leaving. I was invited for an interview to Oxford United but my heart was in Stockport, so I pulled out at the last minute. I could have gone to Lincoln City as well. I kept getting the feeling that anywhere would stand more chance than Stockport."

In June 1964 the wear and tear of the club's depression years told on him and he decided to take a well-earned rest. "I had been following County from pre-war, and to see the club sink so low on support that at one match there were only 1,800 in the ground was unbelievable. It was a constant strain, and just after I left I remember stories circulating that the club was going to fold up. Knowing the financial position and the worries, I didn't doubt this for one minute," he added.

Why the sudden upsurge Stockport fortunes recently?
"Undoubtedly because they have new blood on the board and have poured plenty of ideas into the club," he answered.

It was the following year, in May 1965, that he started one year's service with Crewe as their secretary. service with Crewe as their secretary.

"It was enjoyable, more experience, But Oldham is really something different. The place breathes life in full and I believe this is a club where big advances can be made. I still have a strong affection for Stockport though I don't see many of their games. Call me a Latic their games.

" My hobby is soccer, and this job is always interesting. Just as impor-tant, you are always meeting interesting people," he concluded.

#### OLDHAM ATHLETIC F.C.

Chairman Mr. Ken Bates Directors Messrs. Harry Massey (Vice-chairman) Ron Clayton Eric Beard James Smith Arthur Hudson

> Manager Jimmy Mcliroy Assistant Manager Gordon Hurst Secretary Bernard Halford

Address Boundary Park, Oldham Phone Oldham MAIn 4972

### TALKING POINT ... by the Editor

## IS SOCCER A FULL-TIME JOB?

WHILE the board-room image of cigar-smoking, whisky-supping, pot-bellied directors—with gold chains slung across the midriff bulge—is slowly evaporating, the contribution from these faceless men behind the scenes is generally an unknown item.

A few cynics may still stick to the belief that some only clutter up the board-room because it guarantees them a Cup Final

ticket allocation, and others maintain that it is status obtained to inflate the ego.

Managerial views on the part these budget-controllers should play in the game are many times expressed very curtly. There are quite a number who consider that the perfect director is the fellow who is prepared to put up his money and let everyone else get on with the job with the minimum of inter-ference or suggestion coming from the businessmen providing the backing.

But the man who foots the bill quite frequently feels entitled to call the tune, though it beats me why they want to bother appointing professional men for the job if they wish to fashion the club around their own opinions. Of course, there's always the question of having a scapegoat handy.

But this month some food for thought about the part directors should play in the running of a football club was provided by 33-year-old David Brook, vice-chairman of Huddersfield Townuntil his decision to resign from the directorate.

He has packed up his position with the club because he feels his business duties for a firm which exports to 78 countries prevent him from playing an active part in the Huddersfield club. He departed on the best of terms with his colleagues, but with the following parting shot: "The day will soon come when football directorship is a full-time

It's a comment that has probably got managers throughout the country cringing at the thought of what would follow. Some consider it bad enough enduring the verbal diarrhoea that is churned out at a weekly board meeting without having the shadow of well-meaning men lurking round the corridors trying to provide advice and expressing their opinions on every day of the week.

But it needn't work like that. For there is something exceptionally sound in the words of young Mr. Brook. Clubs do need more full-time attention from their top officials. There are important jobs which require urgent treatment and authoritative decisions, more than a normal football staff can attend to.

Effective directorship involves more

than sticking both hands in the pockets

for the cash . . and keeping them there to look on like an admiring overlord.

With the runnings of a football organisation now taking a broader outline than ever before—the advent of

social clubs, the improvement of fundraising pools, the exploration of public relation matters—it is obvious that clubs need more working hands at the helm.

The old-fashioned image of football directors is disappearing. But it has not prompted many of these officials to change their views about the contribution they should be giving to football.

Policy decisions at board meetings are all very well and vital, but for far too many the rest of their effort seems no more than to be driven to the main entrance of the ground on match days in some high-powered vehicle which emphasises the status they have. Then to be bowed and scraped into their seat in the directors' box.

They feel no need to attend to other aspects of the club's running. After all—isn't the cash they supply enough. And it would be a little below dignity to be a working director.

There are directors . . . and directors. And Mr. Brook's views are growing in number. It is to be hoped that the type he talks about also multiply in the game.

## **Bad News for**

BAD news for defender Bill Asprey specialist last week on the stomach complaint which has been persistently troubling the ex-Stoke player since the match at Torquay in mid-March.

For 29-year-old Bill has been told that

x-ray report reveals he is suffering from a duodenal ulcer. Now he is to be given a diet sheet and go under special treat-

ment to try and cure the trouble.

Said Bill: "It was a bit of a jolt when the specialist told me. I have to go back for a further check and then I'm hoping to be told how this will affect me for playing football. I feel o.k. to play and



I want to carry on in the team—but that's up to the medical men.

"I feared it might be something like this. The stomach pain had been nagging me on and off for a short while. But ever since Torquay it has got worse and on a few occasions I have had to take a couple of days off from training. The specialist has advised that this is the best thing to do-two days resting in bed if the pains come back. Fortunately it's nearly the end of the season and it gives me a good opportunity to clear up the ulcer without it interfering too much with football."

Bill is scheduled to make a first team return at right-back for tonight's match against Swindon. He's figured in every defensive position for the club this campaign, though most of his appearances have been at centre-half.

## Dear Sir..

I would like to congratulate you on your excellent publication. It is worth every penny of the price and must be the best of its kind in the country.

I am a Queen's Park Rangers supporter and, although unable to get along to the recent match, a friend in Manchester sent me a copy of the Boundary Bulletin.

What impressed me as much as anything was the coverage given to the visitors and the warm welcome extended. We hear so much of violence, both on and off the field these days, that it was a real pleasure read your friendly, newsy, magazine.

Oldham Athletic have gained at least one new friend. Next season I shall be following your fortunes in the hope that you will join us in Division Two. — WILLIAM ROY-Division Two. — WILLIAM ROY-THORNE, WORPLE RD., STAINES, MIDDLESEX.

#### **TOWERS** TONGUE-TIED IS



Courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

Photo by Martin Smith

● You can't blame Ian Towers for looking tongue-tied after this save from Oxford United 'keeper Brian Sherratt last Tuesday night. It's a typical action pose from Latics are scorer—and they usually fly into the net when he strikes like this. But Sherratt continued his top-class form and managed to turn this quickly-deflected effort wide of the goal. And open-mouthed Ian really looks as though he's tied his tongue up in disbelief.

### **FIXTURES 1966–67**

#### DIVISION III

	And the life are set of the set of				t year
1966	BOLEON PROPERTY OF THE PERSON NOTED IN	Result	Attend'ce	Result	Attend'ce
Aug. 20	Leyton Orient Home	W 3-1	9,949 4,304	SHAR DOOR	DAT THATE
24	(Wed.) Barrow (League C.) Away	L 1-2	4,304	0-1	4,932
27	Bournemouth & B.A Away	L 1-2	6,224	1-4	6,624
29		L 0-3	7,024	1-0	8,690
Sept. 3	Swansea Town Home	W 4-1	9,954		
5	Swansea Town Home Mansfield Town Away Middlesbrough Home	W 4-2	9,766	0-1	5,786
10	Middlesbrough Away	W 2-0	8,932	0.1	14,099
17		W 4-1	14,061	0-1	14,099
*21	(Wed ) Manchester U. (L. Snr. C.) Home	W 2-1	10,484	1	
24	Colchester United Away	L 2-3	5,921	HISTORY	10,239
•27	(Tues.) Mansfield T Home	D 0-0	14,687	1-1	
Oct. 1	Bristol Rovers Home	W 3-0	12,089	2-0	3,746
8	Grimsby Town Away	L 0-1	8,115	1-3	6,242
15	Walsall Home	W 6-2	10,265	1-2	14,095
*18	(Tues.) Scunthorpe U Home	W 2-0	13,975	1-3	6,363
22	Peterborough United Away	L 1-3	7,637	1-0	6,703
*26		W 9-2	5,577	THE PARTY	Aug Philips
29	Torquey United Home	W 5-0	11,696	101/1-16	0.104
Nov. 5	Brighton & Hove A Away	L 0-2	9,931	1-3	9,196
. 7	(Man ) Sona Select (Bulgaria) Home	W 3-2	5,270	A CHEST	
12	Darlington Home	W 4-0	9,521	1	5 211
15	Darlington Home (Tues.) Scunthorpe U Away	D 1-1	3,580	1-1	5,211
19	Queen's Park Rangers AWIIV	W 1-0	14,413	1-1	6,850
26	PA Com let Dd _Notte County Home	W 3-1	12,220		10 000
Dec. 3	Swindon Town Away	L 3-6	10,347	1-0	12,772
10	Reading Home	L 1-3	9,722	2-2	7,869
*13	Reading Home (Tues.) Bury-(L. Snr. C.) 2nd Rd. Home (Tues.) Away	W 2-1	1,776	THE PERSON NAMED IN	The same of
17		D 2-2	4,720		2.00-
26	(Mon.) Workington Away	D 1-1	2,400	1-0	2,997
27	(Tues.) Workington Home	W 3-0	12,239	1-1	9,529
31	Bournemouth & B.A Home	D 1-1	11,236	2-2	4,622
1967	Down and the second sec		I STUDIO	ST CHOT I	TO SELECT
Jan. 7	F.A. Cup 2nd Round-Grantham Away	W 4-0	5,800	12070	to Total
14	Middleshrough Home	L 0-1	12,659		1
21	Shrewsbury Town Away F.A. Cup 3rd Round—Wolves Home	L 1-3	5,038	1-3	4,756
28	E A Cup 3rd Round—Wolves Home	D 2-2	24,969	PUIT OF	N. C.
Feb. 1	(Wed.) , , , , , , , Replay Away Colchester United	L 1-4	39,099	1	Second in I
4	Colchester United Home	W 4-0		-	0.540
11	Goldester Chres Bristol Rovers	L 1-2		0-4	8,568
18	(4) Doncaster Rovers Home	W 1-0	9,743	Harrison V	1 700
•24	(Fri.) Grimsby Town Home	I. 0-1	9,411	1-4	6,445
Mar. 3	(Fri.) Walsall Away	D 1-1	8,727	2-2	8,822
10	(Fri.) Watsail Away (Fri.) Doncaster Rovers Away (Fri.) Doncaster Rovers Home Southport (L. Snr. C. Semi-Final) Home	D 1-1	6,895		
18	Peterborough United Home	W 1-0		2-4	6,535
•21	Southport (L. Snr. C. Semi-Final) Home	W 2-1	2,464	The same	-
25	Torquay United Away	L 0-4	8,350	_	77.
*27		L 0-1	5,940	0-3	6,231
•29	(Wed.) Gillingham Home	W 2-1	5,192	5-3	5,293
Apr. 1	Brighton & Hove A Home	W 4-1	6,013	1-0	10,388
Арт. 8	(6) Darlington	W 3-2	3,345	1 -	0.125
12	(Wed.) Oxford United Away	L 1-3		3-3	9,137
15	Queen's Park Rangers	L 0-1	14,279	0-2	7,969
22		D 2-2		0-4	8,880
•25	(Tues ) Oxford United Home	D 1-1		3-0	13,449
*28	(Rel ) Swindon Town Home		PARTY OF	1-1	10,344
	Reading Away	The little is		2-3	6,064
May (	(Tues ) Barrow (I. Snr. C. Final) Home	- 10 a P			
13	Watford Home	2011119		0-1	10,399
20		1000			STATE OF THE PARTY
20	All Kick-off 3-15 except •7-30	ALL VIEW			

#### Lance Combination

Lanco. Co	Res.
1966 Aug. 20 Ashton U. (C) Away 27 Ashton U. (C) Home	D 2-2 D 2-2
Sept. 3 Dukinfield T. (C) Away 10 Dukinfield T. (C) Home 17 Radcliffe B. (C) . Away 24 Radcliffe B. (C) . Home	L 1-2 W 7-4 L 3-5 D 2-2
Oct. 1 4 Dukinfield T. Home 15 Morecambe Away 22 Netherfield Home 29 Ashton United Away	W 7-0 L 1-2 D 1-1 L 1-2
Nov. 5 Prescot Town Home 12 Chorley Away 19 Blackpool Mech. Home 26 Dukinfield T Away	L 0-2 L 1-2 W 5-0 L 0-1
Dec. 3 Morecambe Home 10 Netherfield Away 17 Fieetwood Home 24	W 5-2 D 0-0 P
*26 (Mon.) Lytham Away 31 Radcliffe B Away	P W 5-0
1967	A CONTRACTOR
Jan. 7 Kirkby Town Home 14 Lancaster C Away 21 Padiham Home 28	W 5-1 W 9-2
Feb. 4 Lytham Away 11 Horwich R.M.I. Away 18 Nelson Away 25 Prescot Town Away	L 0-2 L 2-4 W 3-1 W 2-0
Mar. 4 Ashton United Home 11 Nelson Home 18 Blackpool Mech Away *24 (Frl.) Fleetwood Away 25 Chorley Home	D 2-2 D 1-1 W 2-0 D 0-0 D 0-0
Apr. 1  8 Radcliffe B	D 1-1 L 0-2 D 1-1 D 1-1
May * 4 (Thur.)Fleetw'd R Home 6 Lytham St. A Home	THE RESERVE

#### THEY STAND HOW

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Oueen's P.R 42	17	4	1	64	14	8	10	2	34		64
Bristol R 44	12	8	2	45	27	7	5	10	28	36	
Torquay U43	16	3	2	50	16	4	6	12	16	30	49
Watford42	14	4	3	36	16	5	7	9	21	28	49
Mansfield 43	12	4	6	48	36	8	5	8	32	33	49
Middlesbro' 42	13	3	4	41	18	7	5	10	35	43	48
Reading 43	12	7	3	43	19	7	2	12	27		47
Shrewsbury 42	15	4	3	48	24		5	11	24	34	47
Swindon T42	13	4	4	49	20	5	5	11	26	36	45
Oldham A43	14	3	4	49	15	4	6	12	28	45	45
Walsall42	12	7	3	36	15	5	2	13	25	49	45
Scunthorpe43	13	4	4	38	22		4	14	19	44	42
Colchester 42	13	3	5	47	25	3	6	12	23	41	41
Gillingham42	9	8	3	27	14	4	7	11	22	40	41
Oxford U42	9	7	5	39	28		5	11	19	30	
Peterboro' 42	11	4	7	38	31	2	9	9	21	34	
Brighton41	10	7	5	36	26	3	5		21	35	
Grimsby42	12	4		41	22		2	15			
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Bournemouth 42	6			20	24		7	11	15		3
Swansea T 42	8				26					56	
Darlington44	8				27						
Doncaster42	10				35		2				
Workington41	8	3	9	29	25	2	4	15	18	52	2

#### LANCASHIRE COMBINATION-Division II

	P	W	D	1	F	A	Pts
Kirkby Town			5	7	73	23	45
Kirkby Town	27	17	ň	ã	50	34	45 38
Prescot Town	27	11	7	0	40	12	36
Netherfield Res	21	14	1	0	64	42	35 35
Ashton United	27	16	3	8	99	5/	35
Morecambe Res	29	15	2	12	54	48	32
Radcliffe Borough	25	12	6	7	61	57	30
Horwich R.M.I. Res	29	12	5	12	49	50	29
Oldham Athletic Res	27	10	8	9	61	36	28
Chorley Res.			5	11	48	47	27
Blackpool Mechanics	27	10					24
Blackpool Wechanics	20	10					21
Lancaster City Res	20	8					20
Dukinfield Town	20	0					18
Fleetwood Res	20	·					
Nelson	26	8	2	16	40	65	18
			3	17	33	52	17
Dadiham	28	2	5	18	48	80	15
(Up to and including S	atu	rday.	A	pril	221	(d.)	

THIS	SEASON'S	DETAILS	
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*LEDGER	37		1 -	2	6	2
*FRIZZELL	32	100-1-0	2	1	6	-
*McILROY	20	1	1.	-	Est I	
*ASPREY	34	2	3	3	5	
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*KINNELL	12	8			44	-
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	Cum I a	door Hall	Frizzell Asnre	v Rowie 7	owers McII	roy Blore

League Cup: Swan, Ledger, Hall, Frizzell, Asprey, Bowie, Towers, McIlroy, Blore, Johnston, Dearden. GOALS: Dearden.
League Subs.: Blore (1), McIlroy (2), Frizzell (2), Lawson (1), Holden (1), Bowie (1), Collins (1).
Combination Subs.: Illingworth (1), Nolan (1), Chapman (1), Hall (1), Aitkin (1).

Combination Subs.: Illingworth (1), Nolan (1), Chapman (1), Hall (1), Aitkin (1). Fletcher, Neill. Fletcher, Neill. Floodlit Games Subs.: Longden (2), Foster (1), Goodwin (1), Bebbington (1). Lancashire Senior Cup: Best (2), Curran, Ledger (2), Holden. Knighton (2), Lawson, Asprey (3), Bowie (2), Towers (3), Collins, Wood, Blore (3), Kinnell, Frizzell (3), Bebbington (3), Blair, Chapman, McIlroy, Hunter. GOALS: Frizzell, Kinnell, Collins, Wood, Towers, Knighton.

Friendlies: Best (2), Hall (1), Asprey (2), Foster (1), Blair (1), Bowie (2), Towers (2), McIlroy (2), Large (2), Collins (2), Ledger (1), Blore (1), Bebbington (2), Holden (1). Sub.: Frizzell (1). GOALS: Collins (6), McIlroy, Towers, Bebbington, Holden, Large, Asprey.

F.A. Cup: Best (3). Curran (1), Ledger (3), Frizzell (4), McIlroy (1), Stevens (3), Asprey (4), Bowie (4), Knighton (3), Bebbington (4), Towers (4), Wood (1), Large (1), Collins (4), Blore (4). GOALS: Large, Collins (3), Asprey, Wood, Bebbington (4).

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## What the critics say...

Tuesday, 25th April, 1967, v. OXFORD UNITED (1-1)

OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE (Gilbert Hoare): "Athletic slumped to tenth position in the League all because of the one goal they could not get in a game in which they had chances galore. The pity of it was that at times in the hard action-packed game, Athletic looked better in attack than for several weeks."

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS: "Oldham got a first-class goal from John Collins, but unfortuately could not repeat the performance on half-adozen other occasions when he had easier chances. Not that he was alone in his goal shyness. Ian Towers missed three and there were other culprits to upset Latics' lowest following of the season, 4,828.

**DAILY EXPRESS:** "Blair tried everything — fetching and carrying, heading and shooting. But Oldham's lowest crowd of the season, 4,828, had to be content watching the once invincible home team settle for a draw."

DAILY MIRROR: "Chesterfield referee Bill Holian was the only one in

tune. It seemed he was trying to comoose a symphony with his finicky blasts on the whistle last night. It's a pity Oldham's attack wasn't half as harmonious. They had a bundle of chances but took only one."

DAILY MAIL: "A freak goal in the 7th minute put Oxford ahead. A Graham Atkinson free-kick on the edge of the area was ordered to be retaken because Oldham weren't ten yards from the ball. Inside-right Ken Hale ran up, stopped, took a step back and hooked the ball. It hit the inside of the bar and was caught by goalkeeper David Best after a single bounce. Best was about to throw it upfield when referee Bill Holian surprised everybody by blowing up for a goal."

DAILY TELEGRAPH: "The match was filled with accurate, fast five and six-man moves that broke down only because of first-class defensive work. One of these quick incisive moves earned a free-kick that led to Oxford's opening goal in the 7th minute."



Photo by Martin Smith

Courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

Carefully does it! That's John Collins applying the precision touch to this shot which registered the equaliser for Latics on Tuesday night against Oxford United.

### JOTTINGS FROM THE JUNIOR GAMES

Saturday, 8th April, 1967 Latics "A" 1, Tranmere R. "A" 4

From beginning to end of this game at Clayton Playing Fields the heavier, more experienced Tranmere team were in charge and well on top.

Poor conditions made the going very heavy and the light-weight Latics didn't really get into the

game.

Hesitant defensive play gave Tranmere their first goal, and although Peacock equalised it was only in spasmodic raids that Latics looked dangerous. Tranmere regained the lead and only a series of good saves by Taylor and strong defensive work by Schofield and Beaver kept the score to two at half-time.

half-time.

After the interval it was all Tranmere and two very good goals gave
Taylor no chance—he made several
brilliant saves to keep the score
down.

Taylor and Schofield did well in an overworked defence and Peacock and Aitken tried hard to put some fight in an inept attack.

LATICS: Taylor; Bell, Reeves; Beaver, Schoffield, Thompson; Aitken, McAuley, Quinn, Seaton, Peacock. SCORER: Peacock. Tuesday, 11th April, 1967 Latics "B" 0, Rochdale "A" 2

Lack of finish robbed Latics of the points at Boundary Park. Losing 2—0 at half-time and having been on the receiving end for most of the first half. Latics swept back into the game and the heavy-weight Rochdale team were glad to clear their lines.

Playing neat football, the approach work was spoiled by lack of punch in the penalty area, and although the Rochdale defence was inclined to panic, Latics were restricted to long shots which were capably dealt with by the Rochdale keeper.

Aitken had two good shots well saved and tried hard to inspire his team, but the vital goals wouldn't come and Rochdale earned the points by taking the first half chances.

All the Latics players did well in the second half and this was an improved performance on recent games

LATICS: Taylor; Reeves, Kowalaski; Hoolickin, Darwen, Millar; Aitken, Howard, Fletcher, McAuley, Grimbledeston. Sub.: Butterworth (D.) Saturday, 15th April, 1967 Latics 'A' 0, Manchester City 'A' 3

On a bumpy bone hard surface on Clayton Playing Fields neither team was able to play a high standard of football.

The all-amateur Latics side started off briskly, but the main failing again was lack of penetration up front, especially on the wings. The defence played well and held City until the 35th minute when their right half was given too much room and volleyed home a good goal from a right wing corner. Cooke, in goal, almost held the shot but it slipped from his grasp much to his disgust.

Cooke was at fault with both the second half goals—he dropped a ball at the opposing forward's foot for the second goal and the third he hesitated when coming out to meet the centre forward, who had beaten Schofield for speed.

Reeves was without question Latics' best player, using the ball intelligently and covering well. He was well supported by Seaton, Schofield and Butterworth.

LATICS: Cooke; Bell, Reeves, Reddyoff, Schofield, Butterworth; Fogg, Beaver, Fletcher, Seaton, Grimbledeston. Saturday, 22nd April, 1967 Bury "A" 3, Latics "A" 3

Due to injuries, Latics fielded a younger team, although in the first five minutes they produced some of the slickest soccer played all season.

Bury, containing three full professionals and the remainder older amateurs (average 18-19), were at sixes and sevens.

Latics gave 100 per cent, effort throughout and fully deserved a hard-earned point. If all the chances created had been taken there would have been a handsome victory.

It is hard to select any individual out in this teamwork victory, but probably Seaton deserved the honour. Schofield and Reeves did well in defence.

LATICS: Taylor; Kowalawski. Reeves; Butterworth, Schofield, Hoollekin; Crosswaite, Seaton, Beaver, Fogg, Lee.

SCORERS: Seaton (pen.), Beaver, Hoolickin (pen.).

## WELCOME . . . SWINDON TOWN

T is difficult to fathom how a team can knock spots off impressive opposition like West Ham United and take double-chasers Nottingham Forest to a F.A. Cup replay and yet wallow in the depths of the Third Division. That's Swindon Town. My mistake, that WAS the Wiltshire club.

On February 18th, while their Cup capers were at their height, Swindon owned 22 points in the League table from 27 games and were level pegging with three other clubs in the bottom four. Undistinguished, eh? Now, fifteen games later, they are perched perkily in the top half of the table, having doubled their points total to 45—they're leet only saven total to 45—they've lost only seven points in this spell. And this remarkable form is really the true reflection of the ability contained in

Everybody expected Swindon to be storming down the promotion straight. In fact, it's only a fortnight ago that Queen's Park chairman Jim Gregory and manager Alec Stock admitted he had named Middlesbrough, Oldham, and Swindon as the clubs to fear in this season's promotion quest.

The Cup events since the turn of The Cup events since the turn of the year seem to have injected fresh sparkle into the side, for they disposed of West Ham in a replay, pushed Bury on their way, and earned friends galore for the way they made the Nottingham club fight tooth and nail to win a sixth round Swindon are going full blast in the League and victory tonight could even have them overhauling Latics before the season closes.

They have the necessary star material to do well in such players as left winger Don Rogers, an England Under-23 international and a target for numerous leading clubs; plus centre-half Mel Nurse, a full international with Wales.

#### STAR SALES

Swindon are accustomed producing big names for football and among the heavy-priced players that have moved on from the County Ground in recent years are Bobby Woodruff, sold to Wolves; Ernie Hunt, who also moved to the Midlands side; and Mike Summerbee, now serving Manchester City.

Manager Danny Williams is trying to keep up the tradition of top-line discoveries, though this season he has outlaid cash on three forwards —Willie Penman, from Newcastle United, Bobby Jones, from Northampton Town and Pat Terry, a hard-hitting centre-forward from

Swindon is capable of being a beom town. During their two seasons in the Second Division and crowd average was 19,264 ('63-'64) when they finished fourteenth, and even 15,267 when they were relegated the following year. Looking back over the last five seasons they have spent in the Third Division the best average has been 14,145, when promotion was gained in '62-'63, and the lowest total in '61-'62-9,653. So there is plenty of room for optimism.

The story of Swindon is practically the story of football south of the Thames. Founded in 1881 by a clergyman, the Rev. W. Pitt, as an amateur club, it was quickly accepted as the best in Wiltshire, and the Wilts Current search se and the Wilts Cup was nearly always

held by Swindon Town; in fact, one season the final was contested between the first and the second teams of the one club.

In time it broadened its attitude, began to engage professionals in 1894, and was accepted as one of the 1894, and was accepted as one of the original members of the Southern League, Div. 1, in which it had, with Millwall and Southampton, continuous membership from the inception in 1894 to 1920 when, with its fellow clubs, it became a foundermember of Division 3 (S) of the Football League.

During this period it had varied fortunes. It finished its first season at the foot of the table and so became a wholly professional side with a wage bill of £10 a week.

In 1900 it reached fourth position, but financial resources were so

In 1900 it reached fourth position, but financial resources were so inadequate that it had to part with many good players, several of whom went to Nottingham Forest. In 1902 it was a bad last and the "Railwaymen" were in sore straits. Thanks, however, to the hard work of such however, to the hard work of such men as Sam Allen, a devoted club man, difficulties were overcome for a

#### RECORD FEAT

Season 1907-8 began its most memorable period. Town entered the F.A. Cup for the first time, reached the third round, and three years later got to the sea. years later got to the semi-final to be beaten by Newcastle United, the ultimate winners, at Tottenham.

Two years later it again reached the semi-final, losing to Barnsley in a replay. Between 1907 and 1914 they won the Southern League championship twice and were never lower than fifth in the final tables.

than fifth in the final tables.

The club, which had to seek re-election in 1933, 1956 and 1957, gained promotion to the Second Division in '62-'63. Following an outstanding start in '63-'64, when it set up a record for a newly promoted club, being undefeated for nine games, they finished well down in the League. The following season saw them relegated to Division III.

Originally Swindon played in green

Originally Swindon played in green shirts on the Croft, but they moved to the County Ground in 1896 and they have occupied it since then without interruption, even in war-

Its capacity is said to be 30,000, but the highest pre-war attendance but the highest pre-war attendance was 24,730 at the Cup-tie with Burnley in 1929. This was easily surpassed at the Cup game with Stoke City in February 1952, when the record 28,400 was established.

Many outstanding men have been connected with the club. Perhaps the best-known was Harold Fleming, always an attractive and dangerous inside forward, capped nine times for England. Then must come Grenville
Morris, capped for Wales 21 times,
and John Walker, the international
back for Scotland, capped nine times.

Others of renown were the backs, Harry Kay, J. Hogan, S. Lamb, and F. Richardson. In more recent years the names of Billy Lucas, capped for Wales, and Norman Uprichard, for Ireland, spring to mind.

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Within twenty-four hours of the Boundary Bulletin binders being delivered to the ground last week, the club had sold nearly three dozen of the tangerine and blue folders. And there is every indication that the demand will be heavy.

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This is the way to keep a complete record of Oldham Athletic activities and for any Latic Fanatic they will make an ideal present. Back numbers of the magazine can also be obtained to complete your collection for the

Arrangements are now in hand for Arrangements are now in hand for the production of a close-season edition of the Bulletin. After the final game of the season on May 13th the magazine staff will be on the lookout for Latics news to keep people up-to-date on club events throughout June and July. Further details about the availability of these summer editions will be made later. summer editions will be made later.

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- PETER DOWNSBOROUGH: Was rating a lot of attention with Halifax Town, his only other League club, when Swindon nipped in and signed him at the start of the '65-66 campaign. He figured in 42 games for the Wiltshire side last season and has done much to strengthen the defence with his fear-less, agile displays. Born in Halifax he came to notice in local soccer in his home town. 5ft. 10 ins.,
- ROD THOMAS: Made his debut in the League side last season when he had two appearances. A former youth player with the club, his speed and strength has made him a reliable full-back. Hails from Glyncorrwg and made his soccer start outside the League, playing at Gloucester. 6ft. 1in., 12st.
- JOHN TROLLOPE: Has an incredible record of appearances since he emerged as a regular first-teamer in '60-61. In the six seasons up to the start of this term he had completed over 250 League outings, being an ever-present in '61-62, '62-63, '65-66. More remarkable still, he is a very young player for he earned his League status at the age of 16. Joined the Swindon ground staff from school, and he is a local boy. 5ft. 10ins., 11st.
- KEITH MORGAN: Another player who has given tremendous service to the side, having missed only 20 League matches in the previous six years. A tall, fast attacking player who progressed through the junior team after signing on the ground staff as a 16-year-old. From Trowbridge—6ft, and 12st 8lbs.

MEL NURSE: Welsh international on many occasions, receiving his first honours while with Swansea Town in 1960. The Welsh club collected £25,000 when they sold him to Middlesbrough in September 1962, and the following year he was called up again by the Welsh selectors. Arrived at Swindon at the beginning of '65-66 and was absent from only four games last term. Raised in Swansea, 6ft. ½ in., 12st. 12lbs.

STAN HARLAND: Signed during the close-season from Carlisle United after playing an important part in that team's promotion from the Third Division during '64-65—he was an ever-present member. He began his football with Everton, eventually being released and signing for Bradford City. A forceful player, he provides strong backing for the attack. Liverpool-born, 6ft. and 12st. 7lbs.

DON ROGERS: Probably the biggest name in football outside the First Division. A devastating player of outstanding ability, he has long been the target for many premier clubs. Has been capped in the England Under-23 side and was permanent choice for England's Youth team. Second top scorer last season with 17 goals, he never missed a match. Hails from the village of Paulton near Bristol. 5ft. 10ins., 12st. 6lbs.

WILLE PENMAN: One of this season's signings.

Bristol. 5ft. 10ins., 12st. 6lbs.

WILLIE PENMAN: One of this season's signings, costing a considerable fee from Newcastle United. The "Geordies" brought him into English soccer from Rangers. He is a Scot, from Wemyss in Fife. Signed for Swindon in September last year and has proved a clever inside or centre-forward. 5ft. 81ins., 10st. 2lbs.

PAT TERRY: Has had a varied career serving such AT LERRY: Has had a varied career serving such clubs as Charlton, Swansea, Gillingham, Northampton, and Millwall. And Swindon actually captured him from Reading, where he was their leading goalscorer. Last year he was also their ace marksman with 18 goals. Celebrated his start with Town by scoring in his first game against Grimsby Town. A Lambeth (London) lad, he's 5ft, 10ins. and 12st. 2lbs.

ROGER SMART: Another local-born player who joined the club direct from Swindon Boys' team. At 17 he was appearing regularly as reserve team centre-forward, but he excels as a deep-lying inside-forward or wing-half. Played in 40 League matches last season. 5ft. 11ins. and 11st. 4lbs.

BRUCE WALKER: Spotted while playing for Newbury, his local side since he was raised at the neighbouring hamlet of Westwood Lay. Had his first two League games in '65-66. Though he is not a big player his ability and speed make up for this. 5ft. 9ins. and 11st.

JOE BUTLER: A full-back, he was transferred from Newcastle United in August 1965. On Tyneside, his native territory, he developed through the junior teams and made three Second Division appearances with Newcastle in '63-64. Called up by Swindon on ten occasions last season. 5ft. 7\(\frac{3}{4}\)ins., 9st. 13lbs.

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#### OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Substitute:

Les CHAPMAN

2-Right Back

Bill ASPREY

4-Right Half

Ronnie BLAIR

7-Outside Right Reg BLORE 8-Inside Right

John COLLINS

Goalkeeper David BEST

3-Left Back

Ken KNIGHTON

5-Centre Half

Alan LAWSON

9-Centre Forward Ian WOOD

6-Left Half

Jimmy FRIZZELL

10-Inside Left Jim BOWIE

11-Outside Left Ian TOWERS

Referee:

R. Harper (Sheffield)

Linesmen:

(Red Flag : A. Entwistle (Hazel Grove, Stockport)

(Yellow Flag : A. Gorton (Macclesfield)

Bruce WALKER 11-Outside Left

Roger SMART

10-Inside Left

Stan HARLAND

6-Left Half

John TROLLOPE

3-Left Back

Pat TERRY 9—Centre Forward

Mel NURSE

5-Centre Half

Willie PENMAN

8-Inside Right

Don ROGERS 7-Outside Right

Keith MORGAN

4-Right Half

Rod THOMAS

2-Right Back

Peter DOWNSBOROUGH

Goalkeeper

SWINDON

Substitute:

Joe BUTLER

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