



Bowles off the transfer list?

By NORMAN DIXON

STAN BOWLES is thinking of coming off Q.P.R.'s transfer list—all because of Tony Currie.

What manager Tommy Docherty couldn't do with all his chat, Currie has almost certainly achieved in the 3-0 thrashing of Fulham.

"It was a treat to play out there today. Just like old times when Don Masson and Gerry Francis were on song," said Bowles.

If Currie had waved a magic wand he couldn't have produced a bigger transformation in his first League game.

Forgotten was that 4-1 home thrashing by Leicester as Currie claimed his new kingdom. And he did it with a badly sprained ankle nipped full of pain-killing injections.

He did it despite having trained only two days in the last five weeks.

He did it with class and signed it with a peach of a goal—a dipping 20-yard volley.

Fulham after promising so much just wilted away after those heroic hours Paul Goddard and Clive Allen had put Rangers two up midway through the second-half.

Criticism

WATFORD full-back Trevor How was full of criticism for referee Morris Baker after being penalised for handling in the 80th minute in the 1-1 draw at BRISTOL ROYALS.

He claimed he had tried to chest the ball as he moved to clear a centre from Tony Pulis. But Wolverhampton referee Baker thought otherwise and awarded the penalty which brought Rovers' equaliser from Stewart Barrowclough.

TOP SOCCER ACTION EXPRESSMEN FOCUS ON THE BIG MATCH STORIES

Danny's plain talking leaves Chelsea blank

By James Lawton

IT HAD been a week of some mutiny at The Bridge, culminating in CHELSEA'S 2-1 home defeat against BIRMINGHAM.

The problem, say some Chelsea players, is a "communication block" with Danny Blanchflower.

This, of course, is no surprise. Chelsea players have been having a communication problem with their managers for many years now.

When they got one that they could communicate with, Eddie McCreadie, a snag cropped up. He couldn't communicate with the directors.

Blanchflower just happens to be a brilliant communicator — even if he occasionally uses a word of more than one syllable. The problem is that what he has to communicate is not very welcome in the dressing room—and maybe not in the board room.

He is not telling everyone that Chelsea have a marvellous set of young players who will climb to the stars and he isn't prepared to rush into the market for "cosmetic" transfer dealing.

Problems

He is telling the unpalatable facts that Chelsea's history over the last five or six years means the club has unique problems which permit no quick solution.

"And Soccer," said Blanchflower after Birmingham had inflicted on Chelsea their third defeat in a week, "is an emotional business."

"The fans apply a lot of pressure and you can't blame



PICTURE BY BARRY GOMER

GOTCHA! Chelsea's Mick Nutton (right) puts an end to Steve Lynex's charge

A blue day at Bridge

help in Clive Walker's goal—stay on the pitch. But where would that argument be if the athletic young substitute Gary Chivers had conjured an equaliser?

Authentic

Birmingham have had their own emotional problems but after finally nerving themselves into the sale of Trevor Francis, they may at last be emerging as a football team.

Certainly the play of Archie Gemmill and Alan Curishley on Saturday suggested the first stirrings of authentic team work and goals from Steve Lynex and Curishley gave them a comfortable victory.

We had n luck says Bloomfield

ORIENT had all the play but all the heartache as NE CASTLE gave them a go scoring lesson.

The O's dominated the match but lost 1-4 and Orient manager Jimmy Bloomfield said: "It was ridiculous."

Like that. We created more chances than they did. I'm just hoping we've got all our bad luck in one match through Alan Should (penalty). Peter Cartwright, Peter Withe and Terry Hibbert before Billy Jennings fouled the net.

A war of words!

ARSENAL'S Terry Neill awaits the return of his players from midweek international duties before delivering a lecture on the sins of waste.

After DERBY had turned a 0-2 deficit into a deserved 3-2 success, Neill said: "We absolutely threw it away, just as we made a hash of

MY GUNNERS WON'T BE WAGGING THEIR TAILS WHEN THEY COME HOME—NEILL

By ALAN WILLIAMS

our home defeat the other week by Ipswich.

We've tossed away at least four points already this season through our own shortcomings and if the players don't appreciate the fact, then a few well-aimed kicks in the backside are required.

Alan Sunderland and Frank Stapleton had given Arsenal a tremendous chance of gaining their first win at the Baseball Ground since Derby climbed into the First Division in 1969.

But David Langan, Alden McCaffrey and John Duncan achieved the impossible in the second half. Delighted

Derby boss Colin Addison said: "When I went into the dressing room at half-time, I left my assistant John Newman to try to get a few words in about tactics while I let fly with the hardest of verbal barrages I've ever delivered as a manager."

"I started with No 11 (Gordon Hill) and worked through. No one was left out. We just hadn't competed in any shape and Arsenal seemed to have every chance of repeating their 7-0 midweek win over Leeds."

"In the end I couldn't have been happier about the way pride, character and general commitment emerged."

KEELAN'S QUALITY KEEPS ON

By JOHN DONOGHUE

NORWICH goalkeeper Kevin Keelan is on the verge of proving that First Division life can go on after 40.

Keelan, only a few months away from his 39th birthday, gave a quality performance in the 1-0 defeat at MIDDLESBROUGH that shows he is still a long, long way from being finished.

"And I will go on just so long as I'm enjoying my football as much as I am now," he said.

Keelan, despite the defeat which allowed Boro to leapfrog over them into third place, believes Norwich have what it takes to launch a challenge for Europe.

You'll be so handy, Andy

By JOHN DAVIES

WOLVES boss John Barnwell watched his team drop a home point to CRYSTAL PALACE, but still had plenty to smile about.

He said: "Very soon I'm going to have the very pleasant problem of permitting two strikers from Andy Gray, John Richards, Billy Raftery and Wayne Clarke."

"You can see why I've bought Gray. It was incredible the number of chances we didn't cash in on. But even a £1,500,000 price tag won't guarantee him a place."

Wolves were beaten for skill

by Terry Venables's whizz kids, but they deserved the 1-1 draw.

Dave Swindlehurst put Palace ahead with a goal which came from a polished move between Peter Nicholas and Mil Planagan.

Venables said: "My lad kept their heads and tried to play football. I don't see there's never a time to use the big boot and clear your line. But I prefer to see their playing accurate one-twos and I don't care if it is in our own penalty area as long as the situation is right."

RESULTS CHECK LIST

DIV I.—Aston Villa 0 Man Utd 3
Bolton 0 WBA 0—Derby 3 Arsenal 2
Ipswich 1 Bristol 0—Liverpool 4
Coventry 1—Man City 0 Southampton 1
Middlesbrough 1 Norwich 0—Nottm Forest 0
Leeds 0—Stoke 2 Everton 3
Spurs 2 Brighton 1—Wolves 1—Crystal Palace 1

DIV II.—Bristol Rovers 1 Watford 1
Burnley 1 Oldham 1—Cardiff 1 Shrewsbury 0
Queens Park Rangers 1 Wrexham 2—Chelsea 1
Birmingham 2—Leicester 1 Notts Co 0
Luton 5 Swansea 0—Orient 1 Newcastle 4
Preston 1 West Ham 1—QPR 3 Fulham 0
Sunderland 2 Camb Utd 0

DIV III.—Barnsley 1 Mansfield 0
Carlisle 1—Gillingham 2—Oxford 1 Millwall 1
Chesterfield 3 Colchester 0 Exeter City 0
Grimsby 1 Plymouth 1 Hull 0
Sheffield Utd 1—Oxford Utd 4
Reading 0—Rotherham 3 Swindon 0
Sheffield Wed 0 Brentford 2—Wimbledon 1 Blackburn 0

DIV IV.—Aldershot 2 Scunthorpe 0
Bournemouth 1 Wigan 2—Bradford City 1
Lincoln 1—Hartlepool 3 Darlington 0
Hereford 1 Tranmere 2—Huddersfield 2
Newport 1—Fleetwood 1 Stockport 0
Rochdale 1 Walsall 1—York 0 Peterborough 2

SCOTTISH LEAGUE.—Prem Div Celtic 2 Dundee Utd 2—Dundee Park 1
Partick Th 3—Kilmarnock 1 Hibernian 0
Morion 3 Aberdeen 2—Rangers 3 Mirren 1

DIV ONE.—Airdrie 4 Arbroath 1
Ayr 0 Hamilton 3—Dunfermline 1 Clyde 1
Dumbarton 1 Stirling A 2—Hearts 1
Clydebank 1—Motherwell 1 Berwick 1
St Johnstone 2 Raith 2

DIV TWO.—Albion R 2 Cowdenbeat 1
Alma 3 Falkirk 2—Brechin Meadowbank 1—East Fife 1 Stranraer 0
E Stirling 0 Queen of South 1 Montrose 2
Queen's Park 1—Stenhousemuir 4 Forfar 0

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So ordinary, Hammers

By TIM TAYLOR

THE Upton Park faithful must put all thoughts of the past out of their minds and accept that they are now supporting an ordinary Second Division side.

Even allowing for their injury list, WEST HAM were a disappointment in the 1-1

draw against PRESTON at Deepdale.

Although David Cross volleyed an immaculate equaliser, it was a direct result of a fluke because Geoff Pike was trying to shoot when he mis-hit the ball

across the area into the path of Cross.

And but for the awareness of central defenders Billy Bonds and Ray Stewart, West Ham would have been slaughtered in the first half instead of going just 1-0 down to a goal from Trevor Brooking's perpetual shadow, Gordon Coleman.