

EVERY MONDAY... THE BEST ANALYSIS AND PICTURES

My brain hurts!

WHAT'S red and white and makes 90 minutes seem like a wet weekend at Bognor Regis? **ARSENAL.**

What's blue and makes 90 minutes seem like two wet weekends at Bognor Regis? **STOKE** away from home.

Stoke manager Alan Durban disarmed criticism after the brain-damaging

...THAT'S BECAUSE I WENT TO SEE ARSENAL AND STOKE AT HIGHBURY

By James Lawton

0-0 draw by a simple statement of fact.

Six of his players, he pointed out, lived in the wrong half of the Second Division two years ago. Two were in the Third Division. One was in the Fourth.

He made no apologies. He was happy with the points. Sorting it all out in the First

Division, said Durban, takes time.

You have to graft. You have to play workers rather than men of flair. You have to, presumably, make aggression in attack a cardinal sin.

If the price of Stoke's survival is one more match like this, the price is simply too high.

Of course it is reasonable for them to be cautious, to think in terms of entrenchment in

the top flight. But the crime they committed against football on Saturday was to make a scoreless draw the pinnacle of their ambition.

Arsenal cannot indefinitely complain about negative opponents.

Terry Neill and Don Howe will talk this morning about the team's increasing stereotypes: about the way their ability to simply switch the point of attack seems to be dwindling a little more each week.

As long as Liam Brady plays Graham Rix grows in confidence, and Howe coaches, fears about Arsenal's future must be controlled.

It's all so painful for Lawrie

By ALAN WILLIAMS

SOUTHAMPTON boss Lawrie McMenemy claims, with much justification, that he has the safest job in football, but after the 4-0 blitz at WEST BROMWICH he admitted: "If we don't make a reappraisal of our away attitude and start improving our recent form, then I could get the sack."

After a 45-minute inquest in the dressing room, when only goalkeeper Terry Gennoe was

allowed out early, he said: "Well, we've had one talk. We'll have another on Monday and then get down to the basics."

"Poor away form is nothing new for us and while we have never said we were a championship side, we still feel we have a place in the top six."

Impact

"We have a great deal of attacking skill, but all round, if we are to make an impact, the players have got to make the most of their assets and accept their responsibilities."

Southampton were brushed aside with embarrassing ease by Albion, who, with only one defeat in 10 League Cup and League games, look set for a place near the top.

Although he had some stylish spells and will clearly benefit from the experience, new Saints signing Dave Watson could not contain Albion's attacking thrust.

Southampton had no counter to the midfield flair of Bryan Robson, David Mills and Gary Owen.

Albion boss Ron Atkinson was also cheered by the news that Cyrille Regis was making progress from his cartilage operation by scoring in the reserves' 3-0 win at Blackburn.

The goals came from John Deehan, Owen, Robson and Ally Brown.



Saints' Terry Gennoe is flat out and Ally Brown is going flat out for goal—the last of Albion's four

PICTURE BY TOM SMITH

Curses—but Robson is staying cool

BOBBY ROBSON deserves a special medal for outward tranquility when everything about MANCHESTER UNITED'S 1-0 home win entitled him to rage about the curse that seems to be on his IPSWICH team.

It was the fifth defeat in a row for Ipswich but Robson simply said: "That's never happened to me before, but I couldn't criticise any of my players for not giving 100 per cent today."

The gods of Soccer were certainly unkind to Ipswich because United didn't play well enough to deserve two points and they won with a master-stroke of craft command by Lou Macari.

Ipswich justifiably claimed Macari obstructed Frans Thissen, allowing Sammy McIlroy to run clear and provide the winning goal for Ashley Grimes.

There was also the fiasco when a Mike Thomas "dive" won him a penalty. But justice was

By DEREK POTTER

done in this case when Paul Cooper flung himself to his right to stop Thomas's re-taken spot kick.

The first effort beat Cooper, but referee Brian Martin was still booking George Burley.

Nothing seems to go right when you're at rock bottom, but Robson had some consolation in the commanding defensive display of Russell Osman.

FANS, as yet unborn, will relive the fury, drama and romance of an Elland Road encounter, which in the year 2000 will go down as "The day Tottenham won their Spurs" or "A doddle for Hoddle."

Glenn Hoddle went in goal for SPURS after Barry Daines was carried off with concussion, which for the benefit of those not present was accidentally inflicted.

Spurs were down to 10 men when Paul Miller earned his marching orders.

Yet Spurs defended magnificently and counter-attacked with imagination.

That turned a game, which theoretically they should have lost by four or five goals, into one that will go down in my book as one of the great victories of all time as they beat LEEDS 2-1.

Hoddle, who along with Ricardo Villa, keeps goal in

Goalkeeper Hoddle is hero for new-look Tottenham

By ALAN THOMPSON

practice matches for such emergencies, said afterwards:—

"I enjoyed it. I had a very easy afternoon but the credit goes to the rest of the lads. They kept Leeds away from me."

Leeds manager Jimmy Adamson, within earshot of the venomous cries of a revolutionary army of fans demanding his head, admitted: "We could have lost by more."

Chuckle

"Ardiles might have had three himself—he is what I call a player with a chuckle in his boots, a man with flair. We hadn't anybody like that."

But there are many names

Chelsea battle

CHELSEA chairman Brian Meers described the game at CARDIFF as "tremendous," but Chelsea had to battle for their 2-1 away win.

The winner came from Mike Filmer in the 68th minute and three minutes later Gary Chivers was sent off for striking Cardiff's Ronnie Moore in retaliation.

Action

Chelsea's caretaker manager, Geoff Hurst, said: "In the five years Chivers has been in the club he has never been booked."

"I will be taking no disciplinary action and I have told

him to forget it in the hope that he has learned his lesson." Moore scored for Cardiff and Lee Frost got Chelsea's first with a gift—Cardiff manager Ritchie Morgan described it as "a crazy goal."

ORIENT were angry at getting only a 1-1 draw at CAMBRIDGE and this pleased boss Jimmy Bloomfield. "It's a nice attitude," he said, "especially so because we may not reach our peak until Christmas."

His counterpart, John Docherty, was also delighted with striker Alan Biley, reinstated after two matches out. "He was very active," smiled Docherty.

Bill's the boss again

AMERICAN Bill Rodgers yesterday won the New York city marathon for the fourth time in a row.

CHRIS WREGHITT, British Open Cyclo-Cross champion, rode to victory in the Cleveland 15-mile race at Middlesbrough.

INDIA'S East Zone were 60 for seven in their first innings against the touring Australian cricketers who declared at 160 for five.

VITAS GERULAITIS, of the U.S., was fined for an obscene gesture as he won the Australian indoor tennis title in Sydney by beating Argentinian Guillermo Vilas.

TERRY GRIFFITHS, world

professional champion, completed a Welsh fight back as they beat Canada 8-6 in the State Express World Snooker championships.

GOAL-KICKING Rugby ace Peter Butler returns to Gloucestershire's team for the match against Cornwall at Redruth on Saturday.

DAVID HAGAN'S Apache won the World Powerboat championship (Class 11) in Venice.

FINNISH driver Pentti Airikkala and his Scottish team-mate Jimmy McRae took first and second places in their works Vauxhall Chevettes in the International Ulster Rally.

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