

ARSENAL ROAR TO LIFE—AND HOWE!

DON HOWE'S parting words to Arsenal's players on Saturday night were: "Play like you did today in the semi-finals and you can forget another Wembley."

Yesterday, Arsenal's players agreed that what happened in the dressing room at half-time dictated their progress to the FA Cup last four.

Manager Terry Neill and coach Howe's concern for their mental attitude, as much as their physical approach, after a goalless and listless first half was a winner.

"One or two had forgotten it was the sixth round of the Cup," said Howe.

"When Terry and I walked up the tunnel at the interval we knew it was going to be a slugging match with the players. It had to be done."

"It was a vital 10 minutes. It always is. It's the only time you can affect the play and put things right if they are going wrong."

Awake

"At Stoke, where we won the previous Saturday and against Gothenburg in the week it had been a case at half-time of saying 'You're doing great. Keep it up.'"

"Against Watford, it was a situation for banging the table and waking them up."

"At this stage of the season, the problem is to motivate players mentally as much as physically."

"But, then this is March. We're still in two cups, still fighting in the League. That can't be bad."

For 45 minutes against

By **HARRY MILLER**

Watford 1
Arsenal 2

eager, organised but limited Watford, Arsenal's full-backs hadn't been getting forward and the midfield men weren't making things happen.

As striker Frank Stapleton, whose two goals finally destroyed Watford, told me: "Terry and Don were right. We deserved shaking up at half-time."

The revival job on Arsenal's mental approach saw Stapleton get on the end of David Price's mishit volley to drive Arsenal in front after 50 minutes.

Thirteen minutes later a superb Liam Brady pass allowed Stapleton to shoot his second.

Malcolm Poskett replied for Watford.

I tipped Arsenal, before the third round, to make history by winning at Wembley in three successive seasons. It is beginning to look a very good bet.



Ray Stewart thunders home West Ham's winner from the penalty spot. Picture: PETER CASE

Moans all for nought!

By **KEVIN MOSELEY**
W. Ham 1, A. Villa 0

THE most significant comment on the controversial last-minute penalty decision that put West Ham into the FA Cup semi-finals, came from their striker David Cross.

Aston Villa complained bitterly that defender Ken McNought's hand-ball was accidental and that they were robbed of a replay when Ray Stewart scored from the spot. But if McNought hadn't got his hand to Trevor Brooking's cross, West Ham might have scored. Cross said: "I had jumped for

the ball and couldn't believe that anyone had got higher than me. I couldn't understand why I hadn't got my head to it."

"Then I realised the ball had been handled — if it hadn't I might have scored."

McNought said after watching TV replays of the incident

"There was no way I was going to handle the ball in that situation."

"I went up for the ball with a bunch of players and didn't feel my hand make contact. Someone hit my shoulder and the ball cannoned off me. I can't accept that I handled intentionally."

Villa manager Ron Saunders said: "We had done the job. We closed them down in the second half and the only way they were going to score was from the penalty spot."

JACK STEGGLES THIRD, FOURTH SCENE



EXETER have joined the hunt for Ray Pratt, Merthyr Tydfil's top scorer with 37 goals.

Pratt, a handbag salesman, had talks with Exeter boss Brian Godfrey yesterday after a £10,000 fee had been agreed.

NEWPORT boss Len Ashurst is trying to get Gary Emmanuel, from Bristol Rovers, on loan before Thursday's transfer deadline.

Ashurst is reluctant to pay a fee until Newport's promotion hopes are decided.

WIMBLEDON chief Dario Gradi pinpointed his team's problems after their 3-1 defeat by Sheffield Wednesday that nailed them to the foot of the Third Division.

"The trouble is we are having to grow up too fast," claimed Gradi, who saw Les Briley shown a red card for swearing at a linesman. Irish international striker Damien Richardson broke his year-long scoring famine by hitting the target in Gillingham's 2-0 win over Mansfield. It was his 100th goal for the club.

Fourth Division promotion hopefuls PORTSMOUTH stuttered to a 2-0 victory over Doncaster, with manager Frank Burrows admitting: "Not much of a match. But it's two points—and that's all that matters."

PETERBOROUGH kept their hopes alive with a 3-0 win over Darlington that brought their points haul to fifteen from eight games.

ALDERSHOT coach Len Walker rapped keeper Glen Johnson after the 3-3 draw with Hereford.

Walker, in charge while Tom McAnearney went scouting, said: "Glen made two mistakes that cost us both points. He knows it and is sick."

Eager Orient leave Cooper on the carpet

By **GRAHAM BAKER**

Bristol R 1, Orient 2

BRISTOL ROVERS player-coach Terry Cooper must explain today to manager Harold Jarman why he made an obscene gesture after his sending off against Orient.

The ex-England defender will be automatically fined £50 by the club after getting the red card for kicking Bill Roffey in the 80th minute of this defeat.

Orient won with goals from Joe Mayo and Billy Jennings after Rovers had taken a second-minute lead through a Stewart Barrowclough penalty.

Camb. U. 0, Newcastle 0
CAMBRIDGE boss John Docherty was pleased with the goalless draw against promotion hopefuls Newcastle. "We had a makeshift side and have only twelve fit men in the club," he declared. A further blow to the club is that Chris Turner is leaving for America.

CLIVE STUNG INTO ACTION

By **NIGEL CLARKE**: Fulham 1, Chelsea 2

CLIVE WALKER admitted yesterday that being dropped by manager Geoff Hurst had hurt him.

His reply was two fine goals for Chelsea that followed his winner against Cardiff last week. Hurst had axed him for lack of effort two weeks ago, but Walker's goals have given Chelsea four vital points and breathing space at the top of the Second Division.

"I was hurt and wanted to do something about it. I didn't think I deserved to go out of

the side," said Walker. "That was Geoff's decision and the best answer in the world was to come back and score goals."

Chelsea are learning to live with life at the top, but their crunch test comes tomorrow when they face Birmingham at St. Andrews.

Both Colin Lee and Gary Locke will be missing through injury. Typical of Fulham's fortunes is that £100,000 new boy Roger Brown has damaged ligaments and won't play for at least a month.

THUMBS UP TO HATTON

Preston 1, Luton 1

LUTON boss David Pleat quickly got the point of Bob Hatton's finger-wagging gesture to him after scoring just four minutes after coming on as sub. "It was to let the boss know that I shouldn't have been left out in the first place," said Hatton.

SPORTS SUMMARY

ATHLETICS

WORLD CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS (Paris).—Men (11.9 kilometres): 1. C. Virgin (US) 37m. 0.5s.; 2. H. Orthmann (Ger) 37-02; 3. N. Rose (Eng) 37-05; 4. L. Scholtz (Bel) 37-11; 5. J. Robson (Scot) 37-20; 6. S. Jones (Wales) 37-23; 7. B. Ford (Eng) 37-25; 8. U.S. 37-26; 9. Belgium 37-26; 10. U.S. 37-26; 11. U.S. 37-26; 12. U.S. 37-26; 13. U.S. 37-26; 14. U.S. 37-26; 15. U.S. 37-26; 16. U.S. 37-26; 17. U.S. 37-26; 18. U.S. 37-26; 19. U.S. 37-26; 20. U.S. 37-26; 21. U.S. 37-26; 22. U.S. 37-26; 23. U.S. 37-26; 24. U.S. 37-26; 25. U.S. 37-26; 26. U.S. 37-26; 27. U.S. 37-26; 28. U.S. 37-26; 29. U.S. 37-26; 30. U.S. 37-26; 31. U.S. 37-26; 32. U.S. 37-26; 33. U.S. 37-26; 34. U.S. 37-26; 35. U.S. 37-26; 36. U.S. 37-26; 37. U.S. 37-26; 38. U.S. 37-26; 39. U.S. 37-26; 40. U.S. 37-26; 41. U.S. 37-26; 42. U.S. 37-26; 43. U.S. 37-26; 44. U.S. 37-26; 45. U.S. 37-26; 46. U.S. 37-26; 47. U.S. 37-26; 48. U.S. 37-26; 49. U.S. 37-26; 50. U.S. 37-26; 51. U.S. 37-26; 52. U.S. 37-26; 53. U.S. 37-26; 54. 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