

Fight for the replays

IT WAS a case of six of one and half a dozen of the other as the FA Cup semi-finalists try again this week to find the two teams for Wembley.

Six Liverpool players are under treatment at Anfield for Wednesday's Villa Park replay against Arsenal.

And six more are fighting to be fit for the Elland Road match between Everton and West Ham.

Liverpool left back Alan Kennedy, who missed Saturday's 0-0 draw at Hillsborough with hamstring trouble, is definitely ruled out and midfielders Jimmy Case and Terry McDermott are both doubtful.

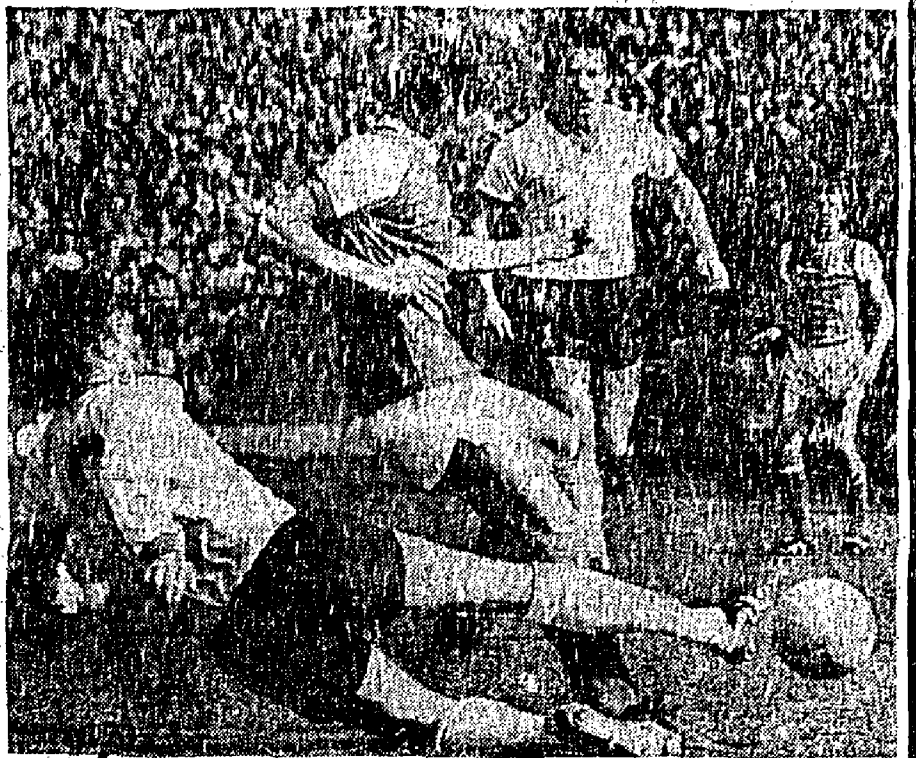
Goalkeeper Ray Clemence, right back Phil Neal and forward Steve Highbury are all under treatment.

McDermott's hopes of recovering from leg bruising were hit when he fell down a flight of steps at Hillsborough. Arsenal

have no problems. Everton and West Ham both have three players under treatment.

Pat Holland is almost certainly out with a sprained ankle. Stuart Pearson is rated 50-50 with shoulder and knee injury and Paul Brush has a slightly better chance of shaking off ankle trouble.

Everton are worried about Andy King (ankle and shin), Mick Lyons (cut eyebrow) and Trevor Ross (shoulder).



On the slide... Liverpool's Phil Neal tackles Arsenal's Graham Rix

WHAT ABOUT WEMBLEY?

BILL SHANKLY, Soccer's veteran war horse believes players and public would get a better deal if the FA Cup semi-finals were staged at Wembley.

Certainly the granite, grassless surface at Hillsborough didn't help improve the grey 0-0 Arsenal v Liverpool tie.

Shanks, hawk-eyed and still

STEVE CURRY reports the Arsenal clash from the grey, grey grass of Hillsborough

sprightly, barked: "It was a hard game. It is the end of the season and players are stale. When the grass is off the pitch and the players are not as fit as they were in August, it's not easy to play good football. You don't get a flow going."

"If you are going to get good control then you need a surface with grass and at this time of year the only place you find it is Wembley."

Arsenal and Liverpool might well have filled Wembley yesterday, but they would still have made it monotonous as long as Liverpool persisted with their tedious offside

trap and Arsenal their boring back pass practice.

The basic trouble, of course, is that these two giants have too much respect for each other's strengths.

I don't believe the fans are in for any improved entertainment at Villa Park on Wednesday.

Indeed Liverpool manager Bob Paisley warned openly that they are unlikely to get a classic.

He said: "You have always got to approach Arsenal the same way, whether the public like it or not. There is just no way you can get any fluency going against them."

"We saw the game of a lifetime

in this season's Charity Shield because Arsenal chose to play an open game."

"But they are a lot different in League games and matches like this one. They just close you down and make it hard to play."

Liverpool are certainly having to grit their teeth through a troublesome spell and they badly missed the marauding penetration of Terry McDermott and Alan Kennedy's sharp and perceptive overlapping.

David Johnson and Sammy Lee both squandered chances in the first ten minutes, but when Liam Brady, playing far too deep, eventually beat the Anfield offside trap, Ray

Clemence sprang off his line and ran 30 yards to block Frank Stapleton with a tackle.

It was a saving tactic he had to employ again in the 65th minute, again to Stapleton. And the England keeper put Brian Talbot under pressure in the 88th minute when the Gunners almost snatched a Wembley place they had hardly deserved.

Talbot chipped the ball over the keeper, but the ball bounced agonisingly on the crossbar.

"I really thought I'd done it at that moment," admitted the man chasing a hat-trick of Cup winners medals.

It's Crystal clear what Venables has to do

By COLIN BATEMAN

CRYSTAL PALACE manager Terry Venables faces a busy summer bartering in the transfer market.

Venables knows he must add goals and gusto to his young side's enterprise if it is to continue to improve.

Venables could have been left with no doubts about Palace's failings on Saturday despite Vince Hildre's superb 89th-minute goal which gave them a 1-0 victory over unlucky LEEDS.

"I've got the players here to solve the goal scoring problem—or to provide the cash to solve it," he said.

"I'm looking at players now to assess what we've got for next season. I'll do what is necessary in the summer."

Overworked

That will probably mean transfers for on-loan Dave Swindhurst and Mike Elwiss to provide the money for a quality striker to partner overworked Mike Flanagan.

Until Hildre grabbed his opportunity's goal, Saturday's game looked destined to become the seventh without victory for Palace, who rely too much on the gifted winger.

The football was as meaningless as the result but it was Leeds' host of youngsters who scratched out the best chances and gave worried manager Jimmy Adamson hope for next season.

FULHAM's next against relegation and NEWCASTLE's challenge for promotion look like two lost causes. Despite Gordon Davies' 84th-minute winner the London side seem certain to go down and the 1-0 defeat at Burnley leaves McGarry's Gordons must have dashed any lingering hopes of First Division football at St James' Park next season.

FOCUS ON THE DIVISION II PROMOTION RACE

Point taken



CLIVE WALKER

CHELSEA left PRESTON after the 1-1 draw convinced they should have been awarded a penalty with three minutes of the match left.

A clumsy 87th minute challenge by Mick Baxter sent Chelsea substitute Clive Walker sprawling in the penalty area.

Much to Baxter's relief referee Terry Morris waved play on.

Convinced

However Chelsea manager Geoff Hurst was convinced his promotion-chasing side should have been given the spot kick—and Preston boss Nobby Stiles agreed.

Chelsea fail to put Preston on the spot

By DREW MACKENZIE

But Baxter, who scored Preston's goal, explained later: "I'd taken the ball off Walker and he bobbled. I stuck my leg out to get it back and he went over it."

"I don't think it was a penalty but I had my backside kicked by the manager for letting it happen."

Hurst, reasonably satisfied with the point Mick Fillery's 53rd minute equaliser gave Chelsea, said: "We have a lot of kids in the side who

just need to believe in themselves a bit.

"The goal gave them that belief and in the end we could have won the game."

A Chelsea victory, however, would have been an injustice to Preston, who totally dominated the first half before letting things slip after the interval.

'Stupid'

Said Stiles: "We could have been two or three up at half-time, but we started doing stupid things in the second half and, in the end, if anyone was going to win it was Chelsea."

Baxter, besides being given a roasting by his manager, earned the sponsors' man of the match award.

JOCK BLASTS WAY OPEN TO THE TOP FOR LEICESTER

● WHILE all around him bleat on monotonously about vital points and goal differences, the Scottish brogue of Jock Wallace cuts clean through the uncertainty, writes JOE MELLING.

The manager who in less than two years has transformed LEICESTER's fortunes. We have always been going for the Second Division championship and we will win it. Nobody remembers the guy who finishes second."

The 2-1 triumph over HIR-MINGHAM provided marvellous entertainment as well as a nose-to-tail queue for the ferry back to the First Division.

Birmingham boss Jim Smith remains convinced that both clubs will be making the journey.

SAFETY FIRST

■ SUNDERLAND look certain to claim promotion—despite the disappointments of their 1-1 draw with ORIENT, writes JOHN DONOGHUE.

The three-up-three-down system, introduced to encourage bolder Soccer, has had the reverse effect on Sunderland.

Having forced Orient into a corner through Kevin Arnott's superb freekick, they saw no incentive to take further risks.

If they slipped up—as they did to Ralph Coates's equaliser—there was still the safety net of second and third place for them to drop into.

Bob irons out Pleat

By ROGER KELLY

SHREWSBURY goalkeeper Bob Warrin may turn out to be the man who has kept LUTON TOWN in the Second Division.

Three stupendous second-half saves enabled his side to escape from Kenilworth Road with a 0-0 draw, which effectively shatters Luton's hopes of promotion.

And the bitterest irony is that Luton manager David Pleat felt at half-time that Warrin was the weak point in the Shrewsbury team.

"In the first-half he was

punching a lot and didn't look too confident. I thought we might catch him out when we had the wind behind us in the second-half but he was absolutely superb," said Pleat.

With games at Birmingham and Newcastle and just one at home against Wrexham, Luton look like being gallant failures but Pleat insisted: "If we go to Birmingham and get a good result next Saturday, we can still do it."

And he got some support from Shrewsbury manager Graham Turner. "It was important for Luton not to lose. Who knows, it could be the point that takes them up."



WARDLE

Clive can't do it alone

By NORMAN DIXON

what more he had to do to get Rangers up. This dropped point just about kills their last flickering hopes.

"Our home record has let us down," said the Doc. "We've drawn our last five games here. Those dropped points could have put us up."

They gave Cambridge a two-goal start, the first from a bad goalkeeping error by Chris Woods.

But Cambridge manager John Docherty said: "Woods got them a point with two great saves from Steve Spriggs and Tom Finney."

WHAT must Clive Allen do to get into the England Under-21 side?

That is what manager Tommy Docherty wanted to know after QPR's 2-2 draw against CAMBRIDGE.

Allen had scored his 27th goal of the season as Rangers came back from 0-2 down to rescue a point.

"He's scored more goals than the rest of the strikers in that Under-21 squad put together," said the Doc. "He'll get them in any company."

He's sharp, determined, and is always ready to have a go from any angle.

Allen must want to know