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Volume 18, No. 10



**FOOTBALL LEAGUE
(THIRD DIVISION)**

UNITED v SWINDON

SATURDAY, 10 DECEMBER 1966. Kick-off 3 p.m.

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MANAGERS' NOTES



Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following upon our victories at Darlington in the Football League and at Yeovil in the 1st Round of the F.A. Cup, the team fell from grace at Watford on Saturday last, when we were beaten by 2 goals to nil after a most inept display. I felt that our opponents were able to gain two easy points without being fully extended. This was a match where the lack of fight and the will to win were sadly missing, and I am personally always at a loss to understand why professional players, not only within our own Club but others too, allow 'apathy' to come into their play.

Our League position is such that we need every effort from our players at all times, both at home and away, and the match at Darlington proved without any doubt what players can achieve with endeavour, and what they are capable of. The team played well from a football point of view and fought for the full ninety minutes to get the result they so richly deserved, and with that approach we should not have to be so concerned even when playing at home where our record this season is far from convincing.

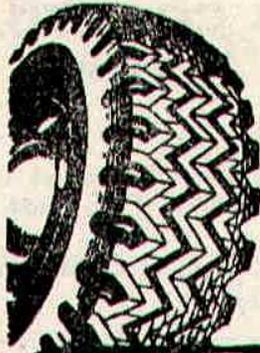
The team have to take more chances when created than they have been taking, and a glaring miss by George Kerr once again mid-way through the second half, if accepted, could have brought the team back into the game, and perhaps inspired them to greater efforts.

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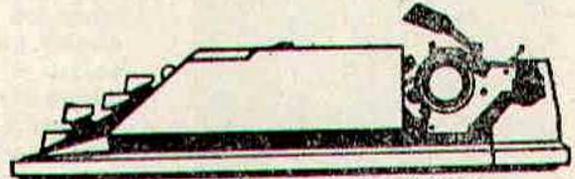
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We have only scored 6 goals in ten away games and had 13 against. That speaks for itself, but several points within the next month or two could put us well up the table.

Our match with Swindon Town today, who themselves are in need of points being only one better than ourselves, provide stiff opposition, and after their convincing victory last week against Oldham Athletic, and being successful by 3 goals to nil here at the Manor Ground last season, we need to give a much improved display today. A 6—3 victory against Division 3's biggest spenders should have boosted their confidence. We welcome them to the Manor Ground and also their Directors whom we are always delighted to see and associate with.

The F.A. Cup draw has been kind to us and we are fortunate again in having a home draw, something we are always delighted with, although we do not know whom our opponents will be (up to going to press), we will welcome either of them to the Manor, and such a draw does provide us with an excellent chance of going into the 3rd Round, but we must not make the mistake of believing that we shall have an easy ride, because football can be so uncertain.

Owing to the size of our staff, we have now decided to make several players available for transfer, either for cash adjustment (which very few Clubs have to spend at the moment), or player exchange. Clubs have been circulated to this effect, and we must await the outcome of any enquiries. If players are not prepared to play to the best of their ability, and work for their own success as well as the Club's, then it is quite obvious we must endeavour to exchange someone.

A Football Manager gets the brunt of the blame with any Club he serves, but no matter how much he puts into his job, there is one thing he cannot do, and that is to take part in any of the ninety minutes that is played on a Saturday afternoon. I was a tough and determined player myself, and I expect the same from anyone who plays under me, but I am always at a loss to understand the lazy approach or couldn't-care-less attitude that we see so much of all over the country.

These last few days have again seen all the League Clubs at special meetings, the third and fourth division clubs meeting in London on Thursday last, discussing among other things the revision of the Football League, involving a reorganization with more non-League clubs admitted, and also a suggestion of the loaning of players between clubs rather than buying them, each Club to be allowed only two per season. It will be interesting to see the outcome of their deliberations.

It will also be a nice change today to be at home after one month away, so here's hoping for two points.

A. TURNER, Manager.

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OUR VISITORS

SWINDON TOWN

While we are, naturally, hoping to end our recent unsuccessful spell with a solid victory over Swindon Town this afternoon, the points will not be gained without a tough fight, for the Wiltshire side ranks as one of the most improved in the Third Division in the past few weeks. Their last seven League fixtures have seen them suffer only one defeat, and that by the only goal. Of the others they have won five and drawn one. As a result of their revival Swindon have climbed away from the foot of the table, to which they were anchored for some time after making a disastrous start. Their first ten Third Division fixtures saw them gain only five points—one win and three draws—and at one stage they suffered five successive League defeats.

With things having taken a marked turn for the better, the team's waning confidence received a much-needed boost and they really 'went to town' last Saturday with a 6—3 home victory over promotion aspirants Oldham Athletic. Changes have also been much less frequent in recent weeks than was the case earlier, and this has also helped in the general improvement.

The victory over Oldham was Swindon's fourth in succession at home, and now their supporters are hoping for better displays in away fixtures, which have so far proved much less productive. Nine League engagements on opponents' grounds have brought four points, from a 4—1 victory at Bournemouth at the end of October and two earlier draws at Brighton (2—2) and Walsall (1—1). The six away defeats have been at Queen's Park Rangers (1—3), Bristol Rovers (0—3), Reading and Colchester (both 1—2), Middlesbrough (0—4) and Gillingham (0—1).

While the recovery has been due to the whole-hearted efforts of every player, a great deal is owed in attack to the goalscoring of inside-forward Dennis



D. Brown

Brown. His 2 last Saturday took his total to 15, including all 4 in the away victory over Bournemouth. Another member of the front line who has been scoring fairly consistently is Don Rogers, whose switch from the left to the right wing has been highly successful. He has scored 7 goals. This switch led to the inclusion of Bruce Walker on the other flank, with Joe Butler settling down as Walker's partner. Butler, who is really a full-back, is in his first full season with Swindon, whom he joined from Newcastle United in August last year.

At centre-forward is the experienced and clever Willie Penman, a close-season signing from Newcastle United. Though not scoring many goals himself in his deep role, Penman has provided numerous chances for his colleagues.



J. Trollope

Another addition to the Swindon playing staff during the summer was left-half Stan Harland, who was signed from Carlisle United. Formerly with Everton and Bradford City, he has been a regular choice at left-half since making his debut on the opening day of the campaign.

In addition to Harland, other defensive stalwarts have been Welsh internationals centre-half Mel Nurse and left-back Norman Trollope. A player with a remarkable attendance record, Trollope—who is still only 23—had made no fewer than 266 League appearances for Swindon at the start of the current campaign, and had been an ever-present in each of the five previous seasons. His usual partner, Owen Dawson, is at present recovering from an appendicitis operation, and his place has been taken by versatile Roderick Thomas, one of the club's promising younger players. Thomas, who had two games at outside-left earlier in the season before switching to the defence, won his first Welsh 'Under-23' cap against Scotland last month.

Goalkeeper Peter Downsborough was also laid aside with appendicitis before the start of the season, and did not make his first League appearance of the campaign until 6 September. Since his return he has shown the consistent form which originally led to Swindon signing him from Halifax Town in the summer of last year.

Completing the middle line is Roger Smart, whose usual position is inside-forward, but since replacing Keith Morgan at right-half he has been playing extremely well in this berth.

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FIXTURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Date	Opponents	Score		Att.
		Grd.	F. A.	
1966				
Aug. 20	Bournemouth ...	H	1 1	5,541
24	Peterborough (L.C.)	A	1 2	5,847
27	Swansea ...	A	1 0	9,752
Sept. 3	Middlesbrough ...	H	1 1	6,588
6	Doncaster ...	A	1 2	11,906
10	Shrewsbury ...	A	0 1	4,268
17	Colchester ...	H	1 1	6,503
24	Bristol Rovers ...	A	1 2	8,745
28	Doncaster ...	H	6 1	7,302
Oct. 1	Reading ...	H	1 3	9,262
8	Mansfield ...	A	1 1	5,023
15	Grimsby ...	H	3 1	6,707
19	Workington... ..	H	3 0	6,926
22	Walsall ...	A	0 2	8,607
29	Peterborough ...	H	0 3	7,317
Nov. 5	Torquay ...	A	0 1	4,828
12	Brighton ...	H	1 2	6,169
16	Workington... ..	A	0 0	1,520
19	Darlington ...	A	2 1	7,081
26	Yeovil (F.A. Cup 1st Rd.)	A	3 1	7,530
Dec. 3	Watford ...	A	0 2	6,834
10	Swindon ...	H		
17	Bournemouth ...	A		
24				
26	Gillingham ...	H		
27	Gillingham ...	A		
31	Swansea ...	H		
1967				
Jan. 7	(2) ...			
14	Shrewsbury ...	H		
21	Colchester ...	A		
28	(3) ...			
Feb. 4	Bristol Rovers ...	H		
11	Reading ...	A		
18	(4) Scunthorpe ...	H		
25	Mansfield ...	H		
Mar. 4	Grimsby ...	A		
10	(5) Scunthorpe ...	A		
18	Walsall ...	H		
21				
24	Leyton Orient ...	H		
25	Peterborough ...	A		
27	Leyton Orient ...	A		
28				
Apr. 1	Torquay ...	H		
8	(6) Brighton ...	A		
12	Oldham ...	H		
15	Darlington ...	H		
22	Queen's Park Rangers	A		
25	Oldham ...	A		
29	(S.F.) Watford ...	H		
May 6	Swindon ...	A		
13	Queen's Park Rangers	H		
20	(Final)			
27	Middlesbrough ...	A		

(L.C.) League Cup

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

Date	Opponents	Score		Att.
		Grd.	F. A.	
Aug. 20	Birmingham (C) ...	A	2 2	
24	Walsall (C) ...	H	4 2	957
27	Birmingham (C) ...	H	0 2	1,242
31	Walsall (C) ...	A	3 2	
Sept. 7	Mansfield (C) ...	A	2 1	
10	Mansfield (C) ...	H	3 1	1,051
17	Notts County (C) ...	A	4 3	
24	Notts County (C) ...	H	2 2	1,403
Oct. 8	Mansfield ...	H	3 1	1,519
19	Cardiff ...	A		Postponed
22	Brighton ...	H	1 0	1,583
Nov. 5	Walsall ...	H	1 4	702
12	Mansfield ...	A	5 2	
19	Cardiff ...	H	2 1	923
22	Birmingham ...	A	1 2	
26	Brighton ...	A	1 3	1,185
Dec. 10	Notts County ...	A		
17	Brentford ...	H		
31	Bournemouth ...	A		
1967				
Jan. 7	Birmingham ...	H		
14	Norwich ...	A		
21	Bristol City ...	H		
Feb. 4	Bristol Rovers ...	A		
11	Swansea ...	H		
25	Walsall ...	A		
Mar. 4	Notts County ...	H		
21	Brentford ...	A		
25	Bournemouth ...	H		
27	Bristol Rovers ...	H		
28	Swansea ...	A		
Apr. 8	Norwich ...	H		
15	Bristol City ...	A		

(C) Cup Competition.

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TONY JONES		MAURICE KYL
7	8	9
MICK MORRIS	GEORGE KERR	GRAHAM ATKINSON

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11	10	9
HARLAND		NURSE
6		5

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'SOCCER GOSSIP'

Worst for years. Everton's return of only two goals in their last six League games is the Merseysiders' leanest spell for sixteen years. Last time they failed to score in so many matches was in 1950/51, when they played six consecutive games without a goal. At the end of that season they were relegated.



Permutations galore. When Leeds switched Peter Lorimer to inside-right he became their eighth player to occupy that position in League and Cup games this winter. They have also fielded six different centre-forwards and five outside-rights.



Ipswich improvement. Ipswich Town have already secured as many away points this season as in the whole of last winter. A year ago they lost ten of their first eleven away engagements. This time ten away games have produced nine points.



Same again? What are the odds this season will produce a similar unique happening to last season, when the top three First Division sides all finished with 79 goals? This is the only 'hat-trick' of this nature in League history.



Hull City's decline. In mid-October Hull City were leading the Second Division. Since then they have taken only three points from seven games, failing to score in two successive matches for the first time for over two years.



Milestone for Hopkinson. When Bolton goalkeeper Eddie Hopkinson has made another six appearances he will have completed 400 League games for the Wanderers. Since his debut ten years ago he has been an ever-present in four seasons at Burnden Park.



Plymouth contrasts. Of the 29 goals Plymouth have scored in twenty games, no fewer than 17 came in four home matches. Their other sixteen fixtures have produced only 12 goals, with blanks in six away games.



Still leading. Centre-forward Ron Rafferty has not scored since the end of September, yet is still Aldershot's leading marksman with 9 goals in League and Cup. This is 50 per cent more than his nearest rival.

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'SOCCER GOSSIP' (contd.)

Still going strong. West Ham's Geoff Hurst did not score in his team's two opening matches, but since then has registered in sixteen of the Hammer's subsequent twenty games in the League and League Cup.



Labone leads. Since the departure of Brian Harris to Cardiff City, Brian Labone has more appearances for Everton than any other current player. He now needs another seven games to complete 300 League outings since making his debut in 1958. It was not until two years later that he became a regular first-team.



Not before time. If Sheffield Wednesday are drawn at home when the third round of the F.A. Cup comes along it will not be before time. The last occasion the Hillsborough club came out of the little black bag first was in January 1962, when they were home to Swansea. They have, however, had three replays at Hillsborough during those five years.



Happier days. Newcastle's paucity of goals this season makes their supporters nostalgically recall what happened fifteen seasons ago. The Geordies then scored 20 goals in three of their first four home matches, getting 7 each against Tottenham and Burnley and 6 against Stoke City. In the first nine games that winter George Robledo registered 13 times.



Odd man out. Odd man out in Queen's Park Rangers promotion seeking side is inside-right Keith Sanderson, who was born in Hull. The rest are all natives of the Home Counties, mostly Londoners. Sanderson is a former Cambridge Blue who joined Rangers from Plymouth Argyle eighteen months ago.



Huddersfield bargain. One of the best bargains Huddersfield have made in recent years was when they persuaded Everton to let them have Eire international Mick Meagan, at an extremely modest fee, when transferring Ray Wilson to the Goodison club. Meagan will complete fifteen years as a professional in another few months, but is good for plenty of service yet at Leeds Road.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION III

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Queen's Park Rangers ...	19	12	5	2	56	20	29
Mansfield Town ...	20	11	5	4	41	34	27
Bristol Rovers ...	22	11	5	6	42	35	27
Watford ...	19	9	6	4	25	15	24
Oldham Athletic ...	20	11	2	7	46	28	24
Walsall ...	19	10	3	6	30	29	23
Shrewsbury Town ...	20	9	4	7	33	29	22
Grimsby Town ...	19	9	3	7	29	29	21
Peterborough United ...	19	6	8	5	34	29	20
Torquay United...	21	8	4	9	33	29	20
Brighton ...	19	8	4	7	28	25	20
Colchester United ...	19	8	4	7	38	34	20
Gillingham ...	20	6	8	6	24	29	20
Bournemouth ...	19	8	3	8	20	28	19
Reading ...	20	7	4	9	30	28	18
Doncaster Rovers ...	19	7	4	9	28	48	18
Darlington ...	21	7	3	11	21	38	17
Swindon Town ...	18	6	4	8	36	29	16
Middlesbrough ...	19	6	4	9	34	39	16
Oxford United ...	19	5	5	9	29	25	15
Leyton Orient ...	19	4	7	8	24	34	15
Scunthorpe United ...	20	5	4	11	19	36	14
Workington ...	18	5	3	10	25	32	13
Swansea Town ...	20	2	6	12	32	50	10

(Up to and including Saturday, 3 December 1966)

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YOUR RECORD PAGE

Players	Appearances		Goals		Total Attendances To-Date	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	Home	Away
Atkinson, Ron ...	18					
Atkinson, Graham ...	8	7	3			
Beavon, Cyril ...	19		1		62,315	81,941
Barron, Jim ...	21					
Bryan, Peter S1 ...		14				
Buck, Tony S2 ...	8	6	3	1	Home Gate Last Match	
Buck, Phillip ...		11		7	6,169	
Booth, Colin ...		7		3		
Clarke, Colin S1 ...	5	8		3		
Calder, Bill ...	5	5	3	6	Best Home Gate this Season	
Cannavon, John ...					9,262	
Evanson, John S1 ...	3	10		4	v READING	
Fagan, Kevin S1 ...		3			Goals Scored at LONDON ROAD end	
Grace, Graham ...					For	Against
George, Richard ...	5	11		4	11	4
Higgins, Peter ...		13			Goals Scored at CUCKOO LANE end	
Hatch, Peter S1 ...		4			For	Against
Harrington, Colin ...	14	5	2		6	9
Hale, Ken ...	20		4		Corners	
Jones, Tony ...	21		1		For	Against
Kerr, George ...	16		3		79	52
Kyle, Maurice ...	21		2		Result Last Time we met Today's Opponents	
Lloyd, John ...	7	10			Home	Away
Lucas, Richard ...		11			0 3	0 0
Morris, Mick ...	17	4	4	2		
Quartermain, Pat ...	16	2				
Sherratt, Brian ...		15				
Shuker, John S1 ...	11	3	1	1		
Smithson, Rodney ...		14		2		
Smith, Phillip ...						
Thomas, Graham ...						
Wilkins, Tony ...		1				
Walker, ...		2				
Corlett, ...						
S (Substitute)						

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Despite the fact that our opponents in the F.A. Cup have been having a battle royal, the Stand tickets for the match are on sale today from 2 p.m. at the Office. Season ticket holders' seats will be reserved until 1 p.m. on Friday, 6 January, and any seats not claimed by that time will be definitely sold. Season ticket holders are however urged to purchase same at their earliest convenience. General sales will be limited as our visitors will be taking their full allocation and they will be on sale today on a first come, first served, basis.

All prices as at Football League matches.



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SATURDAY, 17 DECEMBER 1966. Kick-off 3 p.m.

v. BRENTFORD RESERVES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE. THIRD DIVISION

BOXING DAY, MONDAY 26 DECEMBER 1966. Kick-off 3 p.m.

v. GILLINGHAM

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Good Afternoon Supporters,

Today we welcome to the Manor officials, players and the large following of supporters from nearby Swindon and we all look forward to a good game. At the moment things are not going well for the boys but let's not get downhearted, now is the time to show your support.

Next Wednesday, 14 December, we have the draw for the Toyland Christmas Draw; this will commence at 7.30 p.m. in the Clubroom. Members are very welcome to see the draw and we hope many of you will come along. All the prizes will be on show and I know you will agree we have a wonderful selection which makes this one of the best 6d. Christmas Draws. Prizes include boy's cycle, girl's cycle, two giant Christmas stockings, a scooter, transistor radio, a football autographed by all the players, a giant panda and golliwog, train set, books and games and bottles of sherry and many others. We must record our grateful thanks for gifts and donations to the following—Joe Agutter, D. Chamberlain, A. Turner, F. Gomm, Oxford Candy Stores, Hudsons of Bicester, Messrs. Sunparlour, Wilde and Steele, G. T. Jones, Thornley-Kelsey, R. Quarterman, F. Jones, B. Kearsy, Williams Cycles Ltd., and the Oxford Bar Billiards League, whose generosity has assured the success of this draw. We also owe much to the hard work of Gordon Checkley who undertook the job of organizing the prizes, our thanks to you all.

The Grand Christmas Draw with all cash prizes of £225 will be drawn on Wednesday, 21 December, again in the Club at 7.30 p.m. All winners' cheques will be despatched in time for Christmas, in fact any winning member present at the draw can receive the cheque on the spot, so come along—it might be you. There is still time left to buy a few tickets—remember if you are not in, you can't win.

The Entertainments Committee, in an effort to brighten the week-end in the Clubroom have arranged Tombola sessions on Saturday evenings, we are also negotiating the services of a resident organist to get us swinging again. The Christmas holiday entertainments are being arranged and will be advertised on the Club's notice board.

Next Saturday we visit Bournemouth, coaches will leave Lime Walk at 9 a.m. Fare—adults 17s., children and old age pensioners 9s. Why not take the wife along to Christmas shop while you attend the match. The next match on the Manor will be on Boxing Day, so I take this opportunity to wish you all a Good Christmas, take care on the roads so that you and others will be here to enjoy another Christmas.

All the best,

Jim Knapp, Secretary.

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