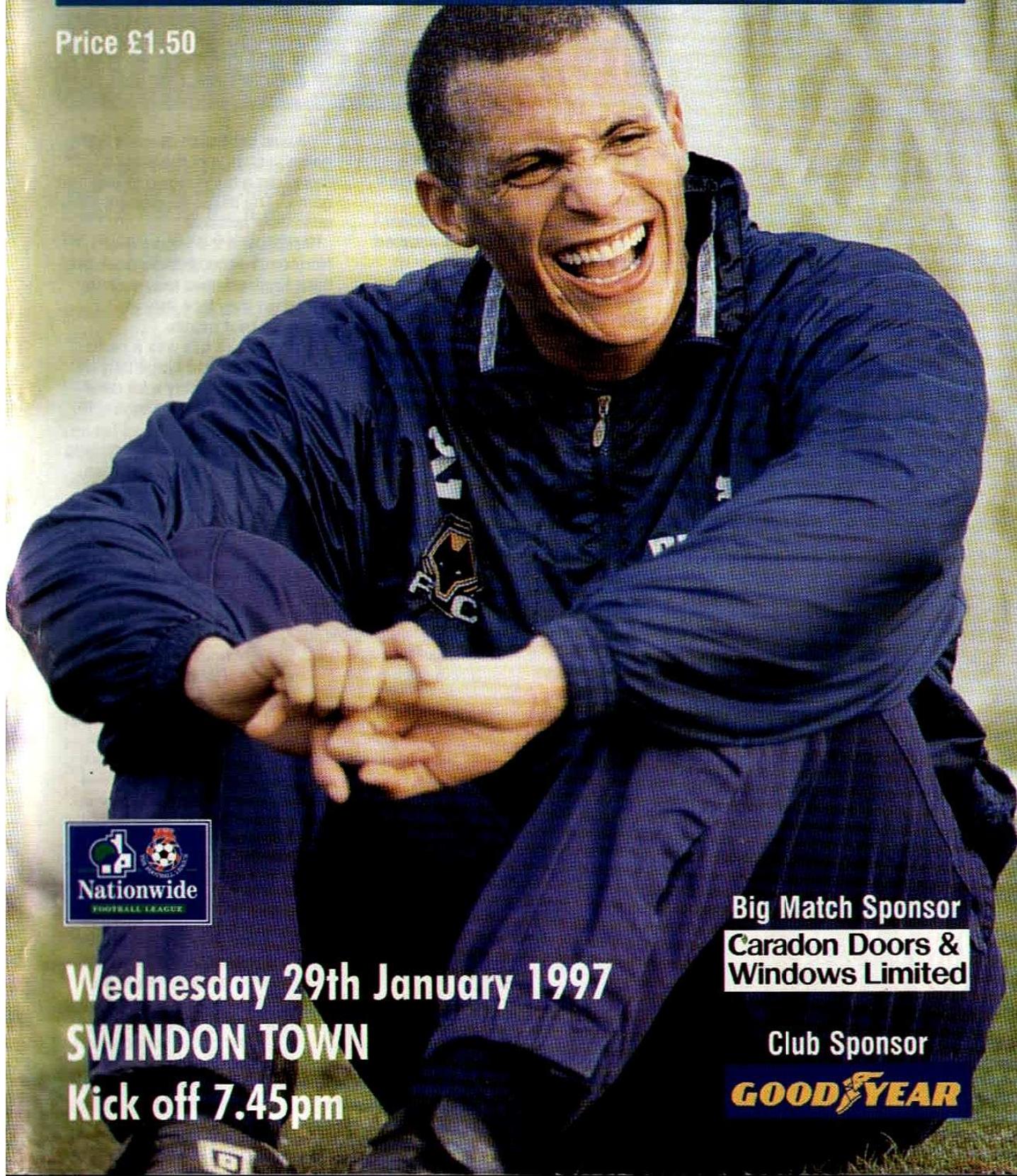


WOLVES

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GOOD YEAR

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Quotes of the Week

“ The second spot is there. We can almost touch it - it's very much in our reach. ”

Mike Stowell
on Wolves' promotion hopes



“ I've had a fantastic start, now I hope I can play my part in helping the club to the Premier League. ”

Adrian Williams on his debut for Wolves



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International call

Just a few months ago, if Robbie Dennison had thought his chances of appearing again for Wolves' first team were remote, then another shot at the international scene would surely have seemed impossible.

But Robbie's return to the senior side has reaped its rewards in the form of inclusion in the Northern Irish team which faced Italy last week.

“ I was originally just on stand-by, but a couple of the lads had to drop out and so I got the call to join the squad, ” he explains.

“ The last game I played for my country was more than two years ago and I honestly never thought I would ever get the chance to pull on a Northern Ireland shirt again.

“ It was especially pleasing that the game was against one of the world's top sides. I was glad to get on for the last few minutes because it's not often you get to play against top quality players like

that.

“ It was the Italian coach's first game in charge of the team so there was a huge crowd to see the game. The Italian supporters were absolutely fanatical. ”

Despite the 2-0 victory over Northern Ireland, Robbie doesn't think England have too much to fear when they face Italy at Wembley next month.

“ I'm not sure this was a particularly good game to judge Italy by. I'm sure they will play a lot differently against England, ” says Robbie.

“ They fielded a full-strength side and I don't think they really managed to break us down. And I think that they will be tempted to play a lot more defensively when they come to Wembley. ”

“ England are in a confident, buoyant mood at the moment so they should do well. ”

Northern Ireland's next match sees them at home to Belgium on February 11. Robbie is again on

stand-by duty and would love the opportunity to play one more game at Windsor Park - a ground just 20 miles from where he grew up.

“ All my family would love to go and watch that, ” he says.

“ Featuring in the first team again at Wolves has obviously brought me to Brian Hamilton's attention, and it would be great if I could be involved in the next game. But just being part of the squad again has been great and it just proves that you are never too old! ”



Robbie with his souvenirs from Italy

ngShots

Nothing's taken for granted

Steve Bull might have got back to scoring ways against Sheffield United, but he has insisted he doesn't take his place in the team for granted.

A five-game absence from the score sheet came to a dramatic end at Bramall Lane when Bully struck the last gasp winner.

But while the record breaking striker was working up a sweat, he was not labouring under the impression that his place in the Wolves line-up is one hundred per cent safe.

"There are three strikers competing for two places at the moment, and I know that I've got to work hard to keep my shirt," he says.

"Obviously I wanted a goal to end this run - I'd like to score in every match - but it wasn't playing on my mind.

"I know that I have been working really hard during games. If you come off the field hardly able to walk, you

know you've worked for 90 minutes.

"If you put the effort in you get your rewards and that's what happened on Friday.

"If you're out of the side you haven't got to put a face on, you've got to fight for your place back, and if you've got a place you've got to fight to keep it."

The result at Sheffield provided a much needed boost to the automatic promotion campaign after the defeat away to Bolton. The points, says Steve, were doubly valuable.

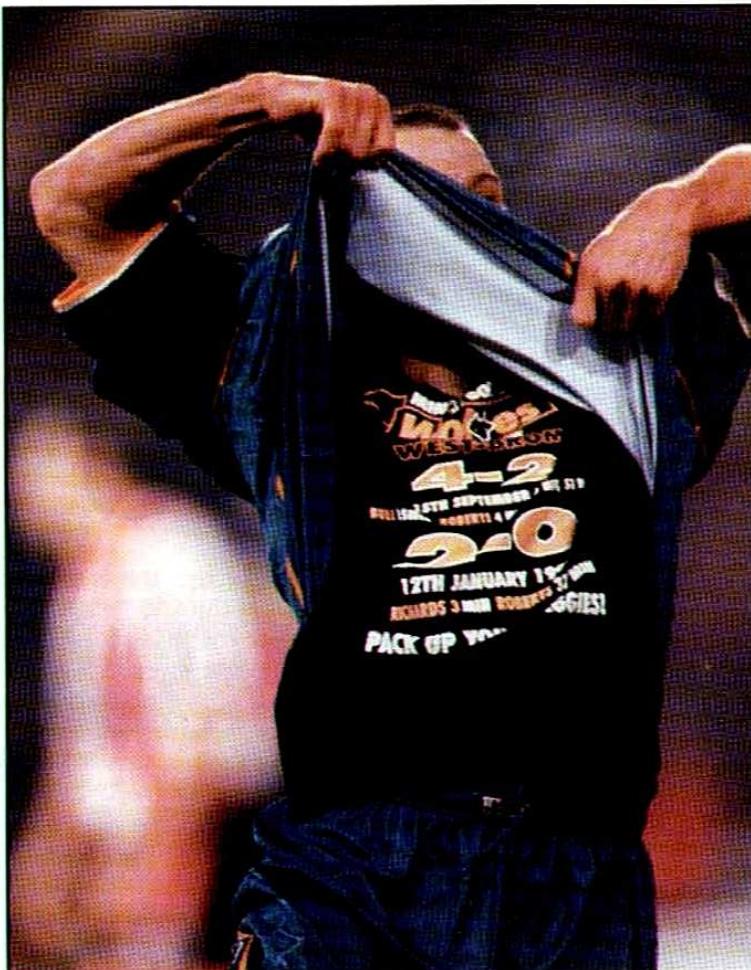
"It would have been nice to win at Bolton but as soon as the game was over that one was done and dusted - it was a one-off that we didn't waste time talking about on the bus home.

"It was more important to win at Sheffield because that one was worth six points.

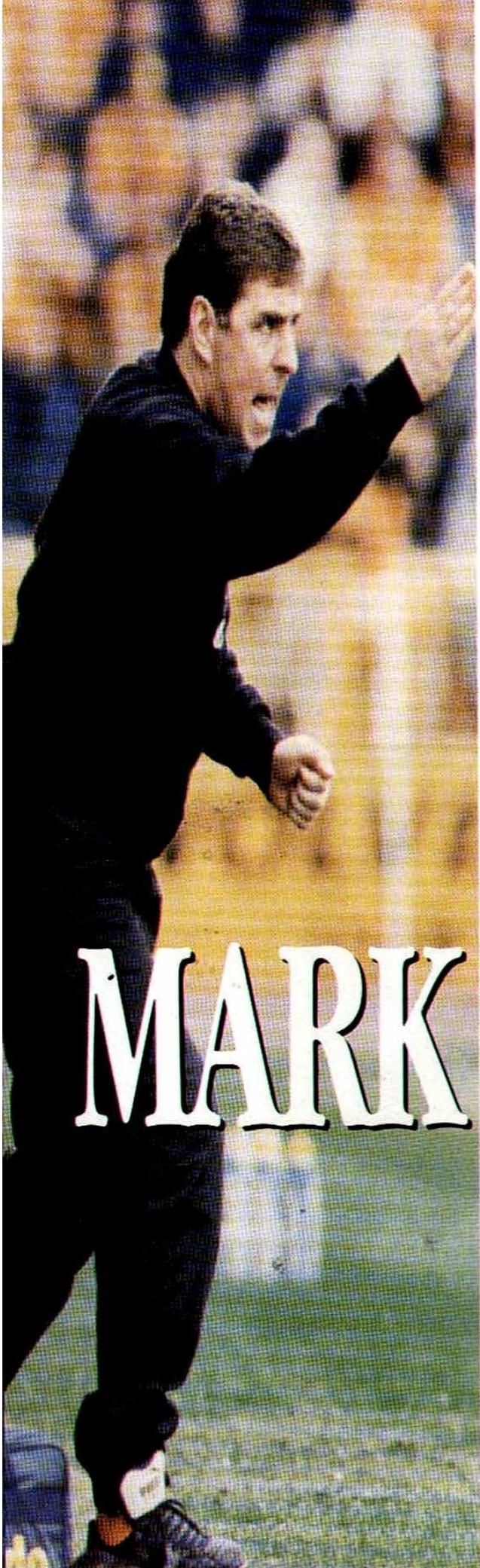
"I'm not sure whether it was a pass or a hoof from Adrian but he put it in the right place, the Sheffield defence was nowhere and I just concentrated on keeping it low."

After securing the victory for Wolves, Steve celebrated by displaying his new lucky charm to the travelling faithful.

"I'm going to wear my t-shirt for every game now," he says. "But yes, I will allow the kit man to get it washed."



Bully gets shirty: Steve shows off his lucky charm



It has been necessary in the last couple of matches to make tactical changes to the starting line-up. This has resulted in players like **Mark Venus, Iwan Roberts, Jamie Smith, Robbie Dennison and Mark Atkins** finding themselves on the side-lines.

These players have of course been disappointed not to play, but their attitude personifies what is impressive about our present squad - that although gutted at not playing, they were prepared to support and encourage those that were picked, and they made a big contribution when we travelled to Sheffield.

If we are to be promoted, we will require 18 or 20 players to make a contribution - and it certainly appears to me that the players now accept that this is a situation which will need the full squad, and indeed could be the advantage that we have over other clubs.

The last three performances have been similar to each other, representing a high level of commitment and consistency. I felt that much of what was written about our performance at Bolton was exaggerated in a negative sense.

Anyone who was at the match would have recognised many of the same characteristics about the performance that were evident in the game against West Brom. Total commitment to tackling, running, tracking the opposition, and competing in the air made the lads' efforts worthy of some praise.

I thought, therefore, that some of the adjectives used to describe our performance by some of the media were totally out of context.

Our display there wasn't so different from the West Brom or Sheffield game, only Bolton were a better team and, on the day, they got the breaks at crucial times.

Bolton played as well as they have done at any time this season, and will, I believe, go on from that performance and win the Division.

MARK McGHEE

I don't believe that this is a premature assessment of the situation - I think it's realistic. However, I am as convinced that we can finish top of the rest of the League as I am about Bolton's future.

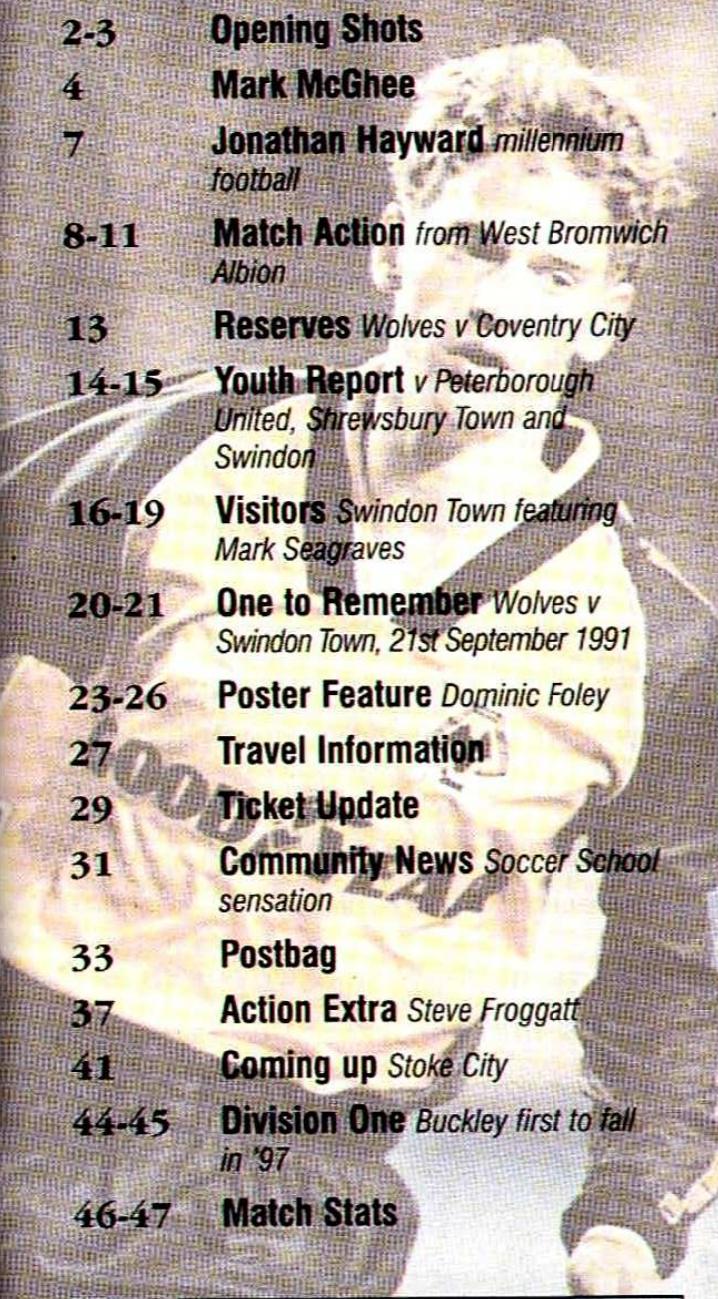
The average of two points a match that we have achieved over the last ten games is form which, if maintained, would see us safely in second spot.

However, we still have 18 difficult games to play, and although our next two give us home advantage, we must approach them with total concentration.

Colin and I watched Swindon come back from two goals down against Grimsby on Saturday - their second-half performance being quite impressive.

To make sure of the three points, we must be at our absolute best tonight.

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Football League: Division 1 Champions
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Division 4 Champions 1987-88;

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Football League Cup Winners: 1973-74,
1979-80;

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ONLY GOODYEAR IS GOOD ENOUGH

Jonathan Hayward

As we head towards a new millennium, football seems to be going through a period of constant and rapid change, increasing in its momentum with each passing month.

Never has football had such a high profile, and never has it been more important to be among and competing with the country's top clubs.

Ironically, although he most certainly would have said it for completely different reasons, Bill Shankly was right when he said: "Football isn't a matter of life and death - it's more important than that."

In the 1990's the biggest single factor in football's rise in popularity has been television, especially the coverage given by BSkyB. The Premier League's deal with Sky, giving exclusive live coverage to Sky Sports, will bring in around £700 million over four years.

A few years ago BBC and ITV were paying together less than five per cent of that.

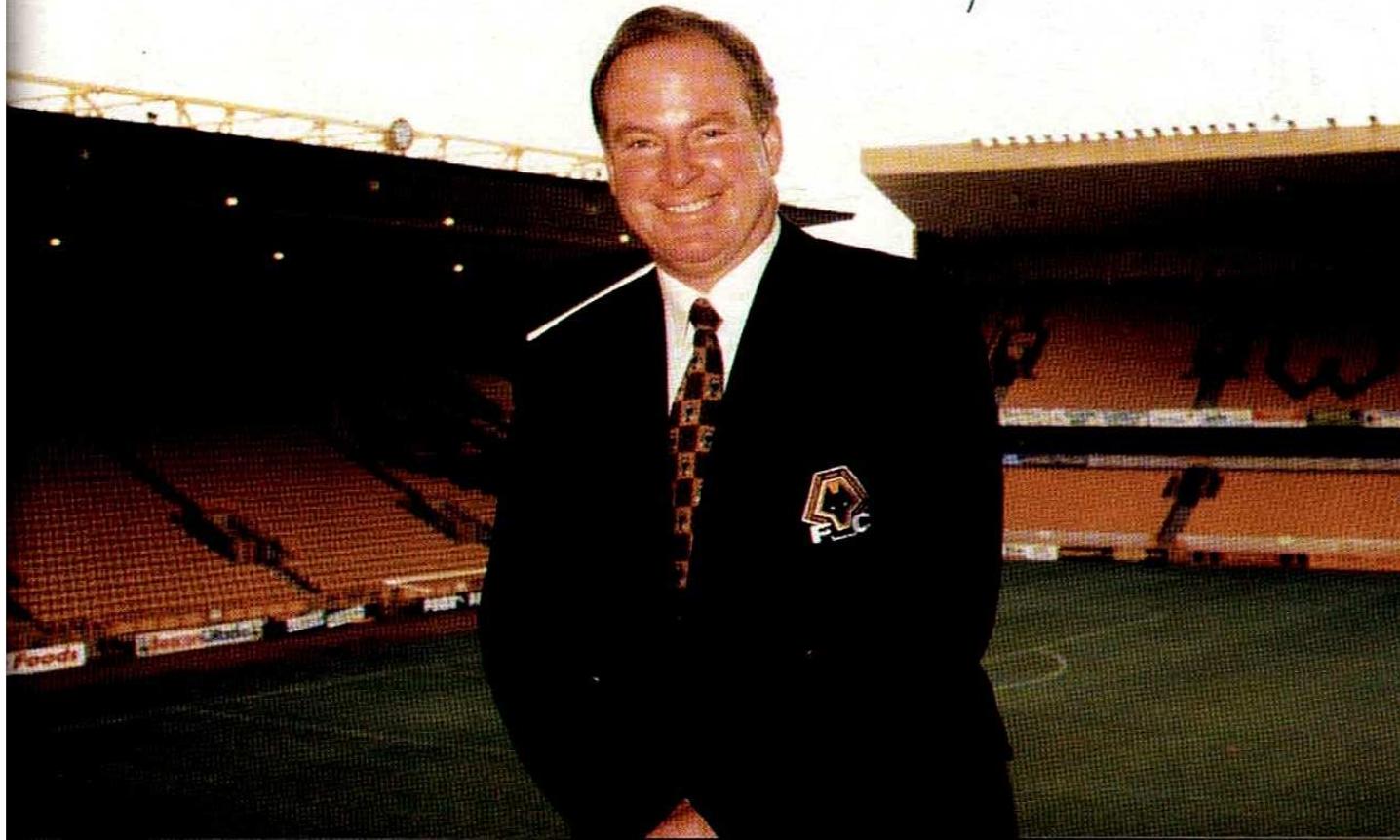
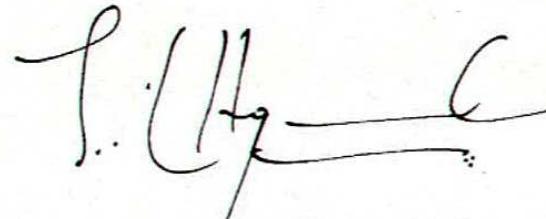
One of the most recent talking points, and one set to run, is the potential of pay-per-view television. In theory viewers would be able to watch their favourite team, home or away, with access through a digital T.V. decoder. This year Sky hopes to launch its digital satellite services, offering up to 200 channels, of which a significant number will be reserved for pay-per-view.

Some estimates I have seen suggest this could mean a £2.5 billion injection by 2005. But to achieve this level of income would require every man, woman and child in Britain watching 25 live games on television each year!

I am sure pay-per-view will happen in the near future, but its benefits may only accrue to a small number of clubs. Early results from France, where pay-per-view was introduced this season, suggest a take-up-rate as high as 20 per cent of subscribers. In Italy, where pay-per-view 'season tickets' were available this season, early analysis shows that the big Italian clubs completely dominate sales; with just three clubs Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan, accounting for over 60 per cent of subscriptions.

In the UK at the moment it's a question of watch this space!

Enjoy the game.



Wolves 2 West Brom Albion 0

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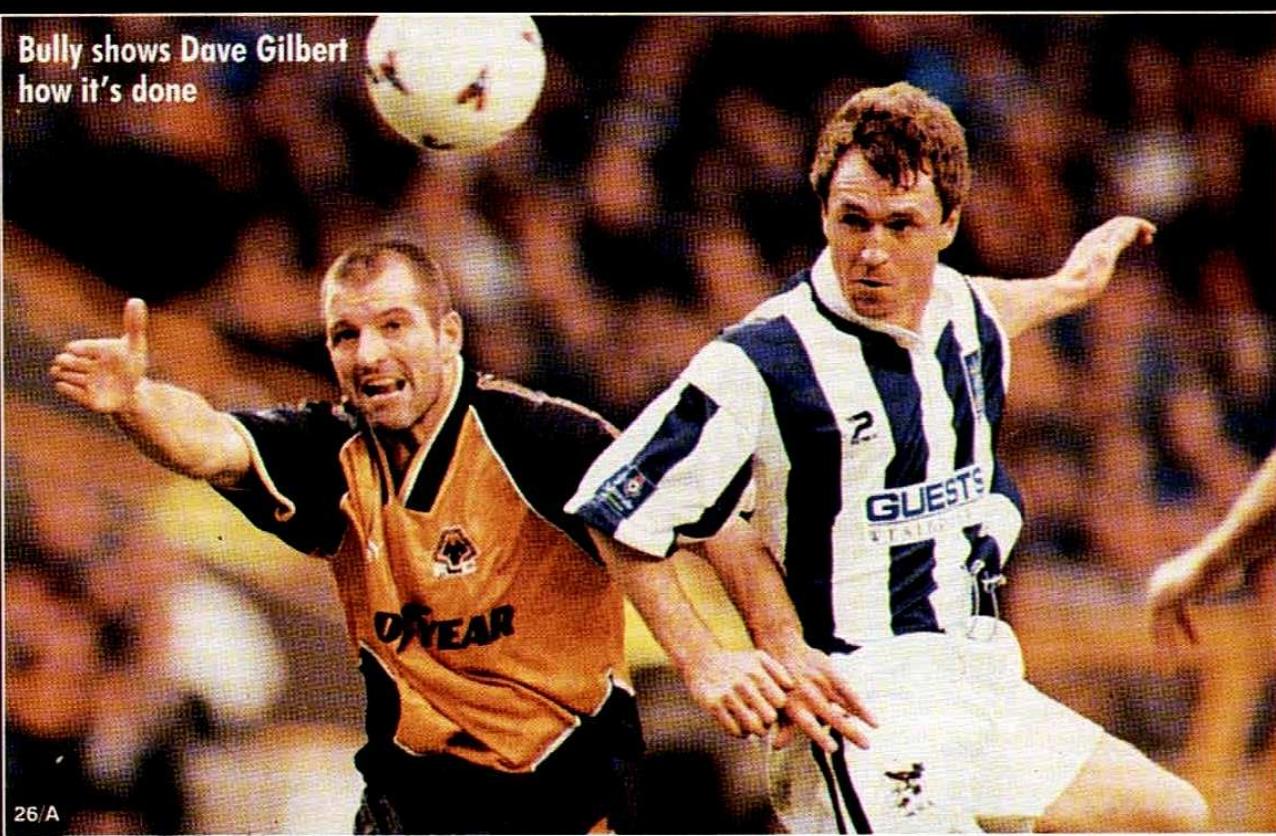
"We've been waiting for a game where we dominated almost from start to finish, and this was the one"

Mark McGhee, West Bromwich Albion post-match press conference



Wolves 2 Albion 0 Sunday 12th January 1997

Bully shows Dave Gilbert how it's done



Try as he might Paul Peschisolido can't stop Veno

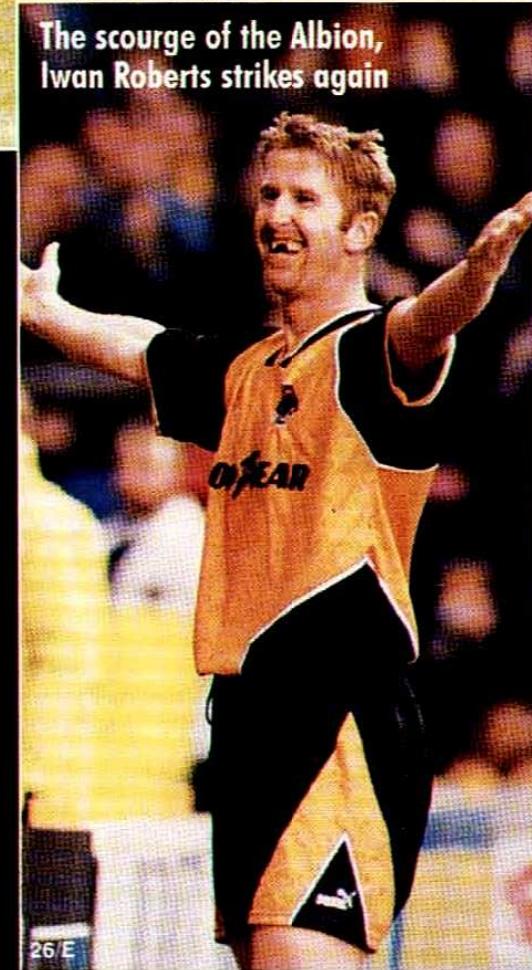




Geoff Thomas beats Ian Hamilton's lunges



Let me hear you say 'Deano, Deano'



The scourge of the Albion,
Iwan Roberts strikes again



THREE SHIRTS ON A LINE.



RESERVES

Wolves 2 Coventry City 1

**Hook, Romano, Thompson (Wright 59),
Westwood, Williams, Law, Corica,
Ferguson (Robinson 76), Foley,
Crowe (Leadbeater 70), Dowe.**

This was a hard earned win against Coventry - but non-the-less it was a deserved and welcome victory which yielded three points to help maintain our challenge on the leading clubs.

The game saw the debut of Adrian Williams in our colours following the awful training injury he picked up back in the summer. Adrian has worked hard and it didn't take him long to show his talents with an excellent ball through for Dominic Foley early on in the game.

Dominic finished in fine style to give us the lead against the side that had knocked us out of the Birmingham Senior Cup last month after a penalty shoot out at Highfield Road. I thought that we had let the Sky Blues back into the game when we had a somewhat harsh penalty decision go against us.

But Lee Hook kept his cool and made a great save from Willie Boland's spot kick. Then Dominic showed some real class with some good ball control which allowed him the chance to hammer a cross shot past John Filan in Coventry's goal.

Unfortunately, some slack defensive work and a little bad luck saw City get back in the game just before the break when Peter Shilton's son Sam netted with a deflected shot, but our defensive display in the second period assured us of the points.

I don't recall Coventry having a shot on target whilst we went close to stretching our lead on several occasions, non more so than when Steve Corica hit the post after a good run.

Apart from Adie Williams' sound display on his comeback, Brian Law was a solid figure in the heart of the defence and Serge Romano, as well as performing well at the back, made some good runs down the wing and got in some good crosses. In attack I felt Glen Crowe, Jens Dowe and Darren Ferguson were all unfortunate not to get onto the scoresheet.

Eight of our remaining fixtures are away from home but a few more performances like this one will, I feel sure, see us challenging for a place in the top flight of the reserves leagues.



Report by
Mike Hickman

Pontin's Reserve fixtures and results 1996/7

Date	Opponent	H/A	F-A	Scorers
Aug 19	Leicester City	H	3-0	Westwood, Crowe, Foley
Aug 29	Middlesbrough	A	2-6	Foley, Stimpson
Sept 9	Notts County	H	1-1	Crowe
Sept 23	West Brom Albion	H	3-0	Foley, Romano, Ferguson
Oct 3	Port Vale	A	1-1	Leadbeater
Oct 9	Blackpool	H	6-0	Young, Robinson, Leadbeater 4
Oct 21	Preston North End	H	0-2	
Oct 29	Coventry City	A	0-0	
Nov 5	Sheffield United	A	0-2	
Nov 12	Stourbridge BSC Rd2	A	3-0	Leadbeater, Young, Robinson
Nov 25	Sunderland	H	2-2	Goodman, Young
Dec 3	Aston Villa	H	1-4	Goodman
Dec 9	Coventry City BSC Rd3	A	1-1	Goodman
				(lost 3-1 in penalty shoot out)
Dec 16	Huddersfield Town	H	3-1	Crowe, Robinson, Goodman
Jan 20	Coventry City	H	2-1	Foley 2
Feb 3	Preston North End	A		
Feb 12	Huddersfield Town	A		
Feb 17	Sheffield United	H		
Feb 26	Aston Villa	A		
Mar 5	Notts County	A		
Mar 12	West Brom Albion	A		
Mar 19	Sunderland	A		
Mar 24	Leicester City	A		
Apr 1	Middlesbrough	H		
Apr 16	Blackpool	A		
Apr 28	Port Vale	H		

Division One League Table

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Preston North End	11	7	3	1	20	9	24
Sunderland	14	6	5	3	32	25	23
Leicester City	12	7	2	3	24	17	23
Aston Villa	10	7	1	2	29	14	22
Middlesbrough	13	6	4	3	29	23	22
Huddersfield Town	14	6	3	5	19	19	21
Wolverhampton Wanderers	12	4	4	4	22	19	16
West Bromwich Albion	14	4	4	6	13	19	16
Notts County	11	4	3	4	18	20	15
Port Vale	12	4	2	6	19	23	14
Sheffield United	12	3	2	7	12	24	11
Coventry City	13	2	4	7	7	13	10
Blackpool	14	1	3	10	8	27	6

Up to and including Wednesday 15th January 1997

Youth Re

After the disappointment of the Coventry postponement we managed to get our season back on the road with a home fixture against Peterborough United. We were the only youth teams to play on the day as the cold weather once again played havoc with youth league fixtures. The playing surface at Cosford was superb considering the frost and snow that had been around for the previous ten days.

Unfortunately during the game, two Peterborough players had to go to hospital to receive treatment - one for a suspected fractured collarbone and the other for concussion. I contacted the Peterborough coach on the Monday morning and he assured me that both players had returned home and are now currently recovering well from their injuries. Might I add that both injuries were accidents and not caused by the playing conditions.

The game itself was a tight one but we came out eventual 1-0 winners, a long range effort by Danny Hughes was the difference between the teams.

Following our success against Peterborough we continued our good run with an emphatic 6-2 victory over Shrewsbury Town. A hat-trick from Mark Jones, and a goal a piece from Robbie Keane, Lee Nayler, and Seamus Crowe put us in a commanding position very early on in the game and by half-time the score line was 5-1. To repeat the same performance in the second-half was always going to be difficult. We did retain control of the game but only managed one more goal late on in the match through Jones - the one that completed his hat-trick.

With two wins under our belts since the turn of the year I am confident we can finish this season inside the top six, which will be a marvellous achievement considering how young and inexperienced the squad has been this season.

After our 2-2 draw at the County ground in late December we were more than hopeful of progressing through to the semi-final stages of the Midland League Cup, but once again we failed to match our league form and disappointingly we lost 2-1.

The game itself was, as the score-line suggests, a tight affair. It was a game of very few chances, especially in the first-half. There was plenty of good passing movements but very little penetration in front of goal.

In the second-half things livened up and I thought we had the better of Swindon, especially when Nathan Lamey put us in front with 20 minutes to go. It always looked that one goal would be enough to win the game. Suddenly though the game changed when we failed to deal with a Swindon corner kick and amidst a scramble the Swindon substitute fired home. Within two minutes Swindon were 2-1 ahead then the same player pounced on some uncer-



Report by
Chris Turner

Midland Melville Youth 1996/7 fixtures and results

Date	Opponent	H/A	F-A	Scorers
Aug 17	Birmingham City	H	2-3	Dixon, Jones
Aug 31	Coventry City	H	0-2	
Sept 7	Derby County	H	3-0	Smith, Keane, Winstone
Sept 14	Walsall	H	5-1	Smith 2, Dixon, Keane, Jones
Sept 17	Luton SJFC Rd1	H	2-1	Smith 2
Sept 21	Grimsby Town	H	1-0	Jones
Sept 28	Shrewsbury Town	A	5-0	Keane 3, Dixon, Jones
Oct 2	Walsall MYCRd2	A	3-3	Simpson, Jones, Smith
Oct 5	West Brom Albion	H	1-0	Jones
Oct 12	Stoke City YLCRd2	A	0-2	
Oct 16	West Ham Utd SJFC Rd2	H	1-4	Keane
Oct 19	Stoke City	A	1-1	Keane
Oct 26	Lincoln City	A	2-0	Keane, Lamey
Nov 2	Walsall	A	7-3	Simpson, Jones 2, Keane, Lamey 3
Nov 4	Walsall MYCRd2 replay	H	1-0	Jones
Nov 9	Mansfield Town	A	1-1	Jones
Nov 16	Nottingham Forest	A	POSTPONED	
Nov 20	Welling Utd FAYC Rd1	A	1-0	Jones
Nov 23	Northampton Town	H	4-1	Jones, Keane, Lamey, Naylor
Nov 30	Port Vale	H	2-1	Naylor, Keane
Dec 7	Notts County	H	POSTPONED	
Dec 10	Wycombe Wand FAYC Rd2	H	2-3	Lamey, Green
Dec 14	Birmingham City	A	POSTPONED	
Dec 18	Swindon Town MYCRd3	A	2-2	Keane 2
Dec 21	Nottingham Forest	H	1-1	Invincible
Jan 4	Coventry City	A	POSTPONED	
Jan 11	Peterborough United	H	1-0	Hughes 1
Jan 18	Shrewsbury Town	H	6-2	S. Crowe 1, Naylor 1, Jones 3, Keane 1
Jan 22	Swindon MYCRd3 replay	H	1-2	Lamey
Jan 25	Grimsby Town	A		
Feb 8	Leicester City	A		
Feb 15	Lincoln City	H		
Feb 22	Peterborough United	A		

tainty in our defence and fired home the winning goal.

I have to say that the boys didn't deserve to lose the game but what was the most disappointing factor for me was that we had worked ever so hard to get in front and two minutes lack of concentration has cost us a semi-final place.

It would be easy for me to talk negatively about the disappointment of not reaching the next stage of the competition but from this game I saw a lot of positive points and also one or two questions were answered about players which shall have to be addressed in the coming months ahead.

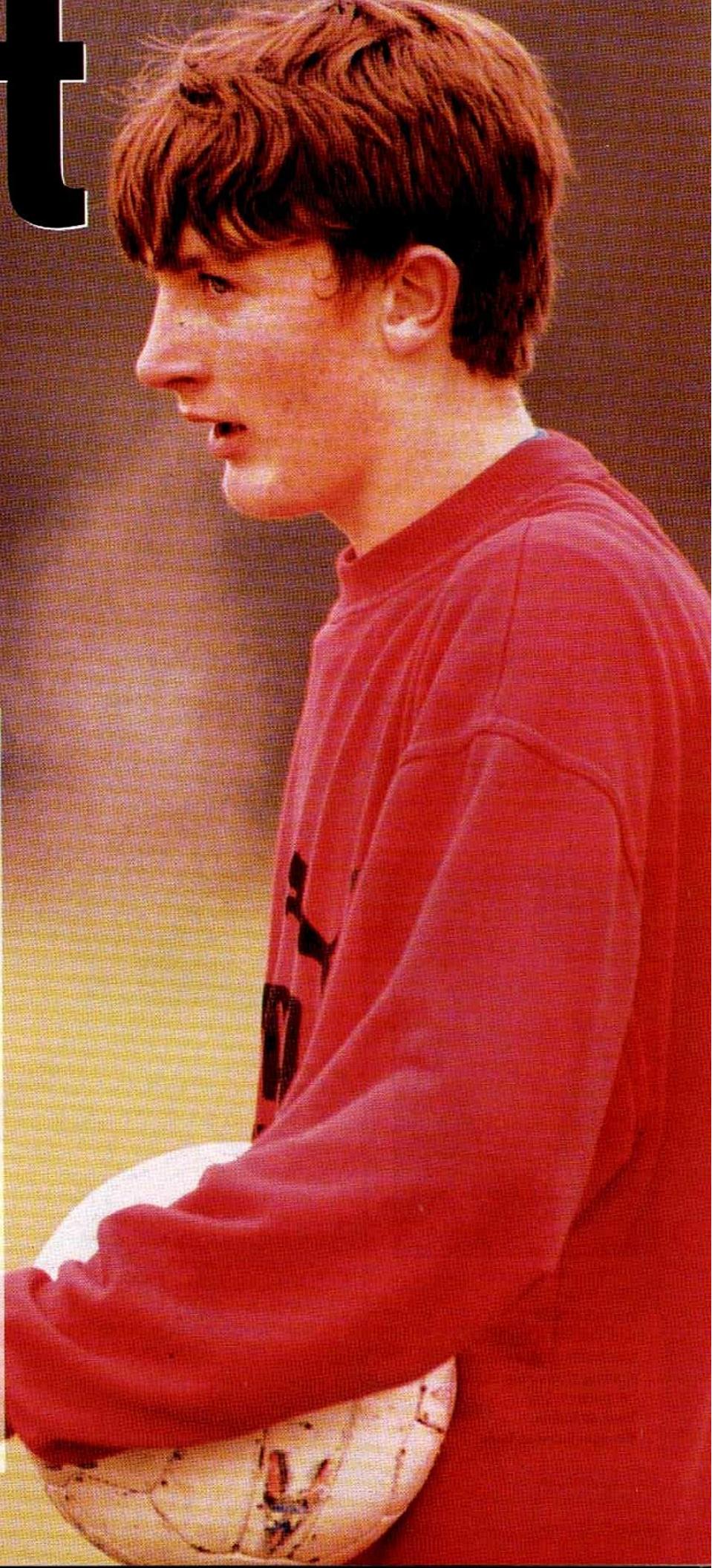
Looking back over our cup exploits this year I would be lying to say I wasn't disappointed to lose three home ties in the fashion we have, but we have in each game at Molineux improved with each performance, and the experience that the schoolboys and the first years will have had in playing competitive cup games will be invaluable to them for next season's cup exploits.

port

Lee is in his first year as a YTS player and he has established himself as a regular in the youth team. His main assets are his pace and his shooting power which he used to great effect in a recent game against Shrewsbury Town where he scored the goal of the season.

What Lee needs to work on is his distribution up to the front players from his position of left back it is important that he provides good quality balls into forwards feet plus also when in wide areas produce crosses that forwards can get goal scoring opportunities.

Since Lee came to the club I can see improvement in his defending qualities which if he can continue to improve and brush up on distribution then Lee will be going in the right direction.



Swindon Town



"We need a season to steady the ship - that hasn't happened for a few years at this club. We need to build gradually and, while we are getting there, we do have to be patient."

Steve McMahon,
Manager Swindon Town



Swindon's recent away record makes Wolves' form at Molineux look a little less gloomy. Since mid-October, Steve McMahon's second division champions have lost on nine out of ten trips; during a similar period, since losing at home to Wolves at the end of September, they have been defeated at the County Ground only once in nine games prior to last weekend.

Such an erratic run has seen the Robins drop from seventh in the first division to as low as 18th recently. So not surprisingly McMahon, tonight seeking to level the season's four-match series with Wolves, ranks stability as his team's priority for the remainder of the season. Considering the rollercoaster the west country club have ridden over the last four years, just staying in the same division for successive seasons could be considered a bonus.

Glenn Hoddle's enlightened Swindon side won the first division play-offs in 1993, only for John Gorman's cavalier outfit to be relegated from the Premiership, conceding over 100 goals, the next year.

McMahon took over in November 1994 but could not halt the slide to the second division despite leading a restructured team to the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals. Then the former England and Liverpool midfielder orchestrated their immediate return last May, an honour he ranks as highly as any other in his distinguished playing career. What Swindon fans would now do for a little mid-table boredom.

McMahon, who in the recent 1-1 draw with Grimsby made his first start in a league game for 13 months, would not have minded staying in contention for a play-off spot but points out: "That was in the early stages of the season. Since then we've had a lot of injury problems, although the lads that have come in have done very well. The trouble is, our away form has been very patchy to say the least.

"We need a season to steady the ship - that hasn't happened for a few years at this club. We need to build gradually and, while we are getting there, we do have to be patient."

Part of Swindon's problem on their elevation to the top flight was promising players landing lucrative

contracts that proved a burden as they readapted to life back in the Endsleigh League. McMahon had to sort the wheat from the chaff. He replaced the likes of former Molineux favourite Andy Mutch, Joe Beauchamp and Paul Bodin with promising players such as midfielder Scott Leitch, a £15,000 signing from Hearts and striker Steve Cowe, costing £100,000 from Aston Villa. Now, other flourishing younger players have grown impatient and Northern Ireland international Kevin Horlock and exciting striker Peter Thorne, formerly with Blackburn, are among four to have asked for transfers.

It is certainly a trying time for McMahon early in his managerial career. "It's just been difficult," he admits. "We've had a tricky period. We have a squad of about 24 and we need them all available, to cover for injuries, suspensions and whatever. At times, we've only really had 12 men fit for a game. We've offered them (Horlock, Thorne, midfielder Wayne O'Sullivan and goalkeeper Frank Talia) decent contracts but we don't want to be caught out in the Bosman situation at the end of the season. We're trying to build for next season and beyond, and we need to know where we are with people."

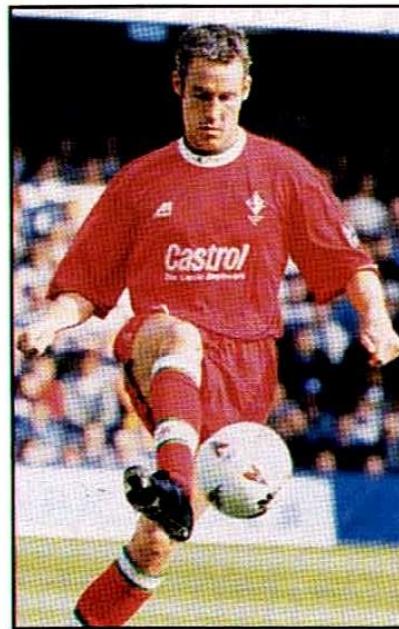
McMahon's rebuilding job has been on something of the proverbial shoestring. As well as spotting excellent young talent in Scotland or Premiership clubs' reserves, he has brought in the experience of former Newcastle full-backs Jason Drysdale and Mark Robinson, ex-Norwich sweeper Ian Culverhouse, ex-Bolton stopper Mark Seagraves and Wimbledon's utility man Gary Elkins to give strength to the defence. Floating ahead of the midfield, Mark Walters has enjoyed one of his more consistent seasons, though he is recently among those hampered by injury.

Hence the return of one Steve McMahon, 35 years young and with the experience of 17 England caps and spells at Everton, Aston Villa and Manchester City behind him as well as six trophy-laden years at Anfield. But after a back operation and the trials of management, he confesses playing a full game was a trial.

"I enjoyed it, though it took a time to adjust. I got into it but I was struggling afterwards with my back, I must admit. I'm not match fit, as I've hardly done anything training-wise for 18 months. The management side is tough. It's difficult to get sufficient training done as a player while you're also out watching matches, taking phone calls and all the rest of it," he says.

"I'd love a game at Molineux. It's a great stadium with a tremendous atmosphere. We have Wolves watched but we know what they're about, what system they play. I do rate them and it's just such a shame: if they had half a decent home record, they'd be in the driving seat in the league. Cold feet can affect a lot of players. If you're a good team and you don't have to keep a big home crowd happy, then you can go away and get results. They've proved that. The Molineux crowd need educating to be patient. Liverpool's fans and Nottingham Forest fans learned that over the years. Mark McGhee has got the team playing in a more patient style and the crowd need to understand that. But having said that, they are a very dangerous team, very strong all round."

Beware under-estimating Steve McMahon - player, psychologist and budding manager.



Ian Culverhouse brought in experience

The boss says

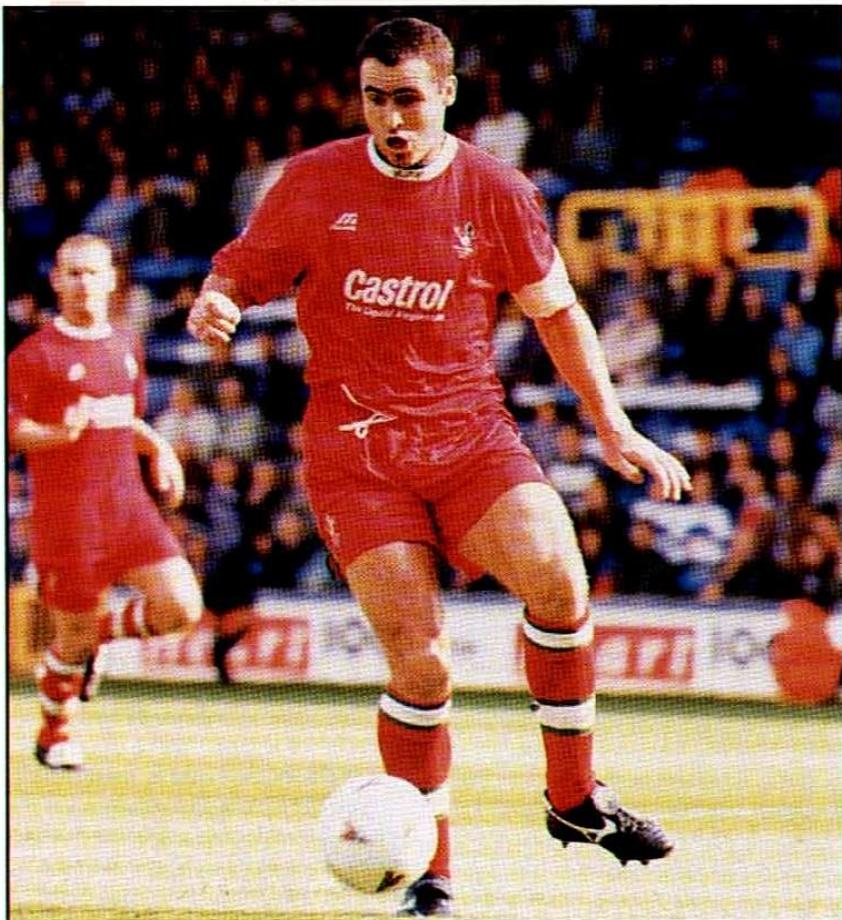
Bootle-born defender Mark Seagraves is enjoying life at the County Ground after his £100,000 move from Bolton Wanderers at the end of last season.

The former Liverpool and England youth international may have uprooted with his wife and two children when the transfer was confirmed last June—but, for the man they nickname 'Siggy', it has not been a problem.

"To be honest I have enjoyed every minute since coming to Swindon," he says. "This is the first time in my career that I have had to move the whole family but, we have all settled in very well.

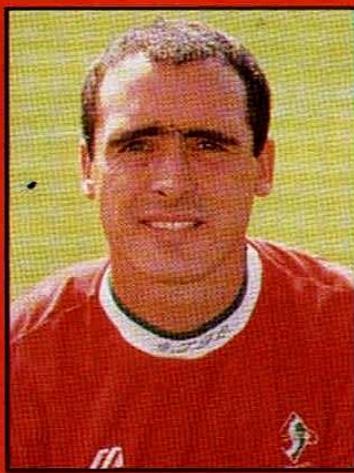
"I think having such a successful season made life a lot easier for me to feel accepted here and all the lads made me ever so welcome."

Seagraves is now firmly established at the heart of the Swindon defence and was honoured when



Career details

Mark Seagraves



Position: Defender

Date of Birth: 22 10 66

Born: Bootle

Source: Liverpool

Previous Clubs: Liverpool, Manchester City, Bolton, Norwich City (loan)

League Debut: Coventry vs. Norwich, November 22, 1986

manager Steve McMahon asked him to take over the captain's arm band.

"Really there is not a lot extra to do apart from leading the team out onto the pitch, but I must admit it is a nice feeling to be captaining the side," adds the 30-year-old.

Seagraves has the greatest respect for manager Steve McMahon who he believes has helped turn Swindon into one of the most professionally run clubs in the first division.

"You have got to be professional right the way through and that is certainly the case here at Swindon under Steve," he says.

"He hasn't got massive amounts of money to spend on big stars but he has got by well on a tight budget and he hasn't brought in too many bad players has he?"

"In the state of the current transfer market I'm sure Steve

could make the club a lot of money by selling two or three of our squad.

"However, that is not what happens here any more. We used to be a club that sold its best players but Steve is determined to hold on to them and build for the future."

Having started his career at Liverpool, he moved to Manchester City in September 1987 and then moved again to Bolton three years later.

Although Swindon may not match their big time rivals as one of the leading lights in the game, Seagrave's simple aim is to play well enough to earn himself another contract at the County Ground.

He adds: "I would love to end my career here but I know anything can happen in football. I'll just continue to take every day as it comes."

Richard Hart

Visitor's view

Kevin Horlock

Date of birth: 11/11/72

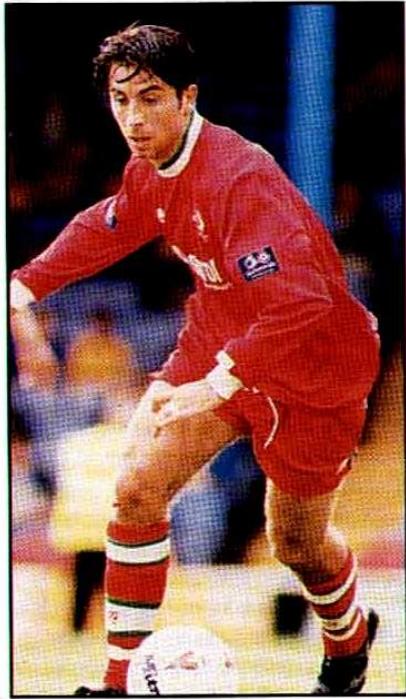
Appearances: 32 Goals: 7

Previous club: West Ham United

A current member of the Northern Ireland squad, Horlock has been a great asset to the team since arriving from West Ham on a free transfer, with no senior appearances to his name, in 1992.

Originally joined the Hammers from school and scored 11 goals from left back for their youth team in 1990-91. Made his league debut in a 3-1 defeat at Portsmouth in 1992, when he replaced the injured Paul Bodin at full-back.

Since then he has developed into a good tackler and striker of the ball, netting 16 goals last season, and is well on his way to reaching that figure again with seven this term.



Fraser Digby

Date of birth: 23/4/67

Position: goalkeeper

Appearances: 13 Goals: 0

Previous clubs: Manchester United, Oldham Athletic (loan)

After serving an apprenticeship at Old Trafford as a teenager, Digby is in his 12th season as a professional and competing with Australian Frank Talia for Swindon's number one spot.

Although he made no first team appearances with United from 1984 to 1986, he was kept busy with loan spells at Oldham and Swindon before making a permanent move to the County Ground for £32,500 in December 1986.

Soon after joining Town he gained England under-21 status to add to

his England schoolboy and youth honours and, apart from a brief return to Old Trafford on loan in 1993, he has been a faithful 'Robin' ever since.

Mark Walters

Date of birth: 26/6/64

Position: midfield

Appearances: 25 Goals: 7

Previous clubs: Aston Villa, Rangers, Liverpool, Southampton, Stoke City (loan), Wolverhampton Wanderers (loan)

With three championship-winning medals under his belt and an England cap under Graham Taylor in 1991, Walters is a vastly-experienced asset to the Robins.

After starting his career with Aston Villa in 1981, the tricky winger enjoyed successful spells at Rangers, Liverpool and, on-loan, with Wolves before a short-term move to Southampton last season.

Only six appearances at the Dell resulted in Walters joining Swindon on a free transfer over the summer.

The attacking midfielder has earned a regular first team place since and scored seven goals as he chases his best ever seasonal tally of 12 in 1990-91 for Liverpool.

Ian Culverhouse

Date of birth: 22/9/64

Appearances: 23 Goals: 0

Previous clubs: Tottenham Hotspur, Norwich City

Cultured defender who was a polished full-back with Norwich City and has also excelled in a sweeper role since graduating from

Tottenham's youth scheme in 1982.

Culverhouse made two appearances in four seasons at White Hart Lane before arriving at Carrow Road for £50,000 in October 1985. He played more than 350 games for the Canaries and was outstanding during their debut UEFA Cup run in 1993/94.

Moved to the County Ground at the end of December 1994 for a bargain £250,000 fee, courtesy of a Football League tribunal who brought Norwich's asking price down from £900,000.

Peter Thorne

Date of birth: 21/6/73

Appearances: 13 Goals: 8

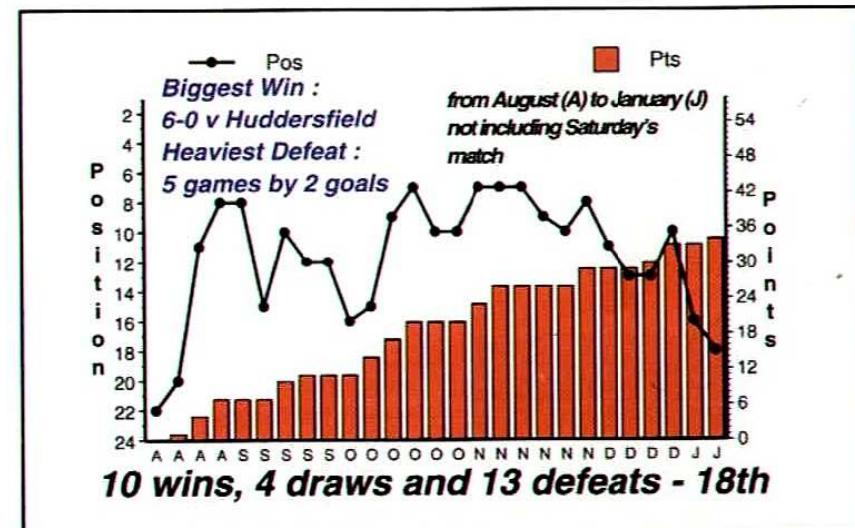
Previous clubs: Blackburn Rovers, Wigan Athletic (loan)

Having escaped from the shadow of Alan Shearer in January 1995 when he left Blackburn for Swindon, Peter is a strong, robust striker in the mould of the England hero.

Arrived at Ewood Park as a trainee in 1989 and made his only first team appearance for the blue-and-whites as a substitute in the 2-0 Charity Shield defeat to Manchester United in 1994.

After scoring four goals in his opening two pre-season games for Swindon, and netting all five against TP Seinajoki of Finland, Thorne notched up 11 goals in his first season at the County Ground.

A further 10 strikes last term set him up for another good season and, despite an ankle injury, Thorne has still scored eight times in 13 games.



Ones to watch

One to

Wolves 2 Swindon Town 1

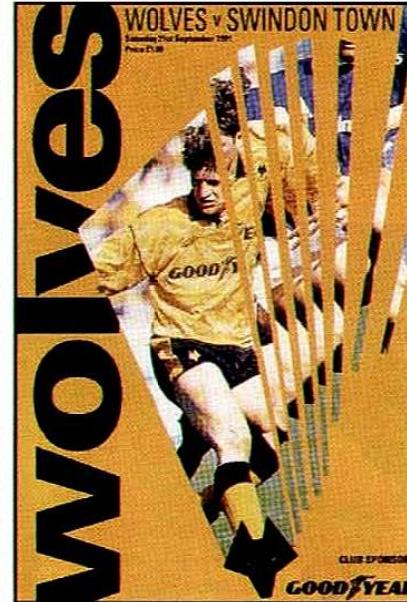
Saturday 21st September 1991

Though only a few weeks old, the 1991/92 season promised much for Wolves and Swindon after both clubs had made a fair start to the campaign though Wolves could have been better placed had they not lost after an average display at Cambridge in a midweek fixture before a meeting with the Wiltshire club at Molineux. The Cambridge defeat came after a fine 2-1 win at St James Park over Newcastle, and the news that veteran defender Lawrie Madden had signed a contract to keep him at Molineux for the remainder of the season.

Wolves were five points behind the second placed team - Cambridge - whilst Swindon were in third spot in the table two points behind the East Anglian outfit who had inflicted the only defeat on them to date. Town were in fine form having won four of the five League games played since the Cambridge loss, and also progressing in the League Cup at the expense of West Bromwich Albion

A groin strain meant that Andy Mutch missed his first game of the season, the enigmatic Mark Burke taking his place on a fine September afternoon. The only other change saw Paul Birch coming in for Robbie Dennison who took one of the substitute spots.

Two early chances which fell to Wolves saw Steve Bull connect with a Kevin Ashley right wing cross, only to be penalised for pushing, and Madden head Paul Cook's free kick



into the danger area without anyone being able to take advantage of the situation.

Wolves continued to dominate the early exchanges and it was of little surprise when they moved into a deserved eighth minute lead. Birch's left wing corner wasn't cleared by the Town defence and Tim Steele found himself perfectly positioned to slot the ball past Nicky Hammond.

Swindon retaliated but their first real threat to Mike Stowell's goal saw Fitzroy Simpson hit a 20 yard effort well wide. Wolves responded when Steve Bull ran on to a Stowell clearance but, under a challenge from Colin Calderwood, he put his shot wide.

In the 18th minute Swindon had an excellent opportunity to level the scores when they were awarded a penalty after Kevin Ashley had hauled down Nicky Summerbee just inside the area. Micky Hazard, who with five goals was leading scorer for the visitors, hit his shot low to Stowell's left but the keeper made a fine save pushing the ball away to

Previous Meetings

League	W	D	L	F	A
Home	2	2	1	8	7
Away	1	0	5	5	10
FA Cup					
Home	1	0	0	2	0
League Cup					
Home	3	0	0	8	4
Away	0	1	2	3	6

remember



Mike Stowell dives to block Mike Hazard's penalty.

Mark Venus who was more than happy to boot the ball into touch.

Twice Bull was within inches of increasing Wolves' lead with headers that flew just wide of the woodwork, but Town began to get more and more into the game as the interval approached.

Their threat continued on the resumption and, but for the instincts of Stowell, and the alertness of the evergreen Lawrie Madden, they would have been level within three minutes of the restart. Hazard beat the Wolves' offside trap and got in a low, hard shot which Stowell managed to stop but couldn't hold. Much to his relief he saw Madden clear the danger as Hazard raced in on the rebound.

Then, when Stowell was beaten by Ross McLaren, the Swindon striker looked on in despair as his header hit the post and was cleared. Graham Turner replaced goalscorer Steele with defender Gary Bellamy in a bid to close up the gaps that were beginning to appear in his defence.

And as Wolves began to regain the ascendancy Cook wasted a golden opportunity by blazing over the bar from eight yards after he had controlled a great ball from Birch. But relief was at hand in the 67th minute in the shape of a typical Bull goal.

Tom Bennett put through a great through ball which beat the Town offside trap and landed at the feet of

the onrushing Bull who gave Hammond no chance with an angled drive into the far corner of the net. It was Bull's seventh goal of the season the striker having netted once in seven of the eight games played.

With just three minutes remaining Swindon got the goal their efforts merited when Steve White beat Stowell with a fine header. Though they strived for an equaliser in the few moments that remained, Swindon couldn't breach the home rearguard again and Wolves took the three points which lifted them up to sixth spot in the table.

By the season's end, 18 wins and 18 defeats meant that the Molineux team finished in the mid-table 'no man's land' of 11th position, while Swindon were five points and three points better off at the end of the campaign

John Hendley

Wolves: Stowell, Ashley, Venus, Bennett, Madden, Downing, Steele (Bellamy 57), Cook, Bull, Burke, Birch. Sub: Dennison

Swindon Town: Hammond, Jones, Summerbee, Hoddle, Calderwood, Taylor, Hazard (Close 77), Shearer, Simpson, McLaren, White. Sub: Viveash

Attendance: 15,219



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Dominic Foley

My footballing life defender



What are your earliest memories of pulling on a pair of football boots?

I would have been about seven or eight when I first pulled on a pair of football boots, but they weren't to play soccer in.

At that age I was playing the Gallic form of football and hurling.

My father always played a lot of sport and encouraged me to do the same and I devoted as much time to these games as I did soccer which I started playing for the local town side at the age of 10.

I played for Charlville - in a Sunday League - until I left school at 18. I wanted to become a professional sportsman and soccer was the only one of the three sports which gave me this option. By the time I left school I was playing for the county hurling side at under 21 level, and football for Ireland at under 18 schoolboy level.

Who's posters did you have on your bedroom wall?

I was a big Liverpool fan and I can remember having posters of Ian Rush, John Barnes, and Kenny Dalglish.

I used to watch them on TV but also the club I played for would organise trips to see them live.

A game I particularly remember was during the season before the Kop was pulled down. Liverpool beat Chelsea 2-1 so it was well worth the journey.

What do you remember most from your days as an apprentice?

I was offered an apprenticeship at both Sheffield United and Manchester City, but I turned them both down.

It was tempting, but I knew that out of each year's intake only a couple are ever taken on and I didn't want to be left with nothing at the end of it.

So I decided to stay at school and give professional football a go when I'd got some qualifications and had the option to go to University if things didn't work out. I was offered a place at University to do European Studies, but I put that on hold to take up the offer of a contract at Wolves.

continued on page 26

Dominic Foley

-----defender-----

Born: Cork
7/7/76

Height: 6ft 1in

Weight:

12stone 8lbs

Signed: August
'95 for £35,000
from St James'
Gate

**Wolves appear-
ances and goals
to date:**

Lg 1(8) 1g,
FA Cup 0(1) 0g,
Lg Cup 0(1) 0g,
Others 0 0g

Stats upto & inc Sat 18 Jan 97



continued from page 23

How did you feel on the day you made your League debut?

My best game for Wolves was my debut last season against Oldham.

I was told by the manager - it was Bobby Downes at the time - on the Friday before that I would be playing. It came as a surprise so I immediately rang home and my family all booked tickets to fly over the next morning to come and see the game.

I was a bit nervous but not because of the size of the crowd, although I'd only ever played soccer in front of five or six hundred spectators before. I did play in a junior hurling game prior to an All Ireland Final in Dublin with about 40,000 supporters watching.

What do you consider to be your best ever individual performance?

My best performance for Wolves was probably the game earlier this season at Swindon when I scored my first League goal for the club.

Which footballing ambitions have you yet to fulfil?

Firstly I want to establish myself in the first team at Wolves. I feel I have improved a lot as a player during the two seasons I have been at Molineux and I would like to become a regular on the team sheet.

My other main ambition is to play for Ireland at senior level.

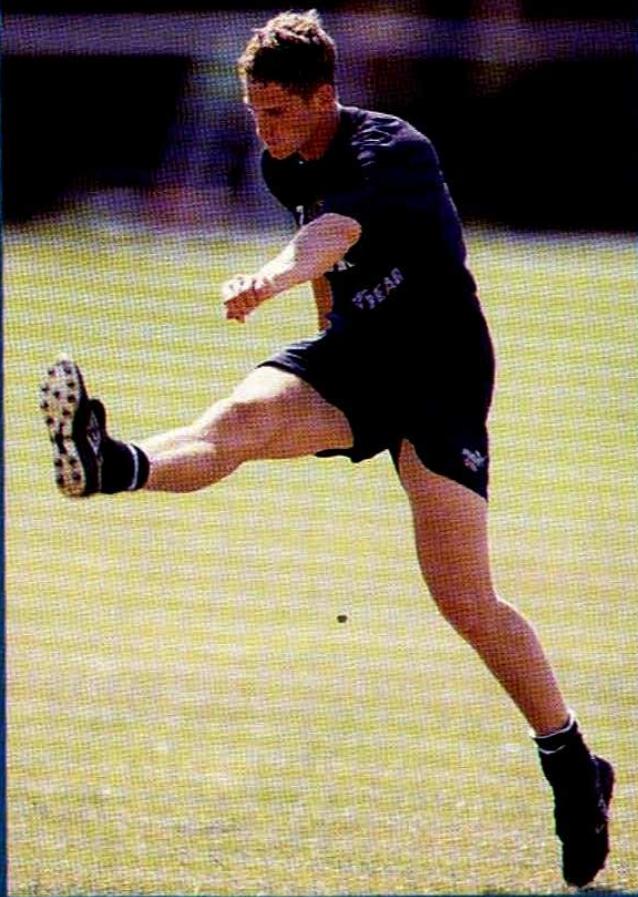
I have played twice at under 18 and six times at under 21 and would like to progress through the ranks to play for the full Irish side.

When you quit playing, what will you do?

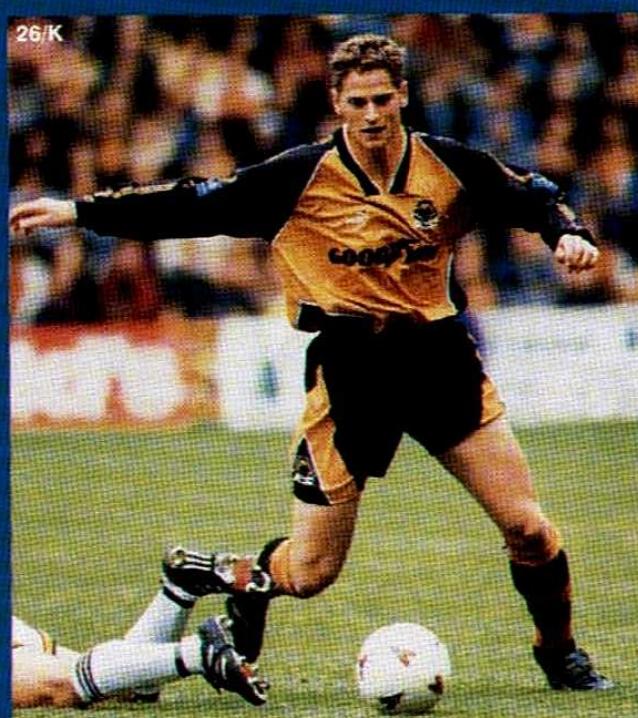
I'm almost certain I would move back to Ireland and possibly resume my studies. I would also like to start my own business but to be honest I haven't given too much thought as to what sort of business.

I was originally planning a career in marketing, so maybe it would be something along those lines.

26/J



26/K



Dominic Foley

Wolves Travel Club

Remember, when you're travelling with us, you are representing Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club. You can enjoy the following benefits on our executive coaches:

- Free prize draw on board
- Video messages from players en route to the game
- Friendly stewards, refreshments & toilet facilities
- Competitive rates
- Disco and bar facilities available on return to Molineux
- Hot food and television available before departure



01902 656100

Forthcoming Travel

Saturday 8th February 1997 v
Huddersfield Town
depart 11.00a.m
adults £9.00 - junior/senior citizens £7.00

Saturday 22nd February 1997
v Barnsley
depart 11.30a.m
adults £8.50 - junior/senior citizens £6.50

Tuesday 4th March 1997
v Birmingham City
depart 5.45pm
adults £5.00 - junior/senior citizens £3.00

COMING SOON TO THE
Terrace Bar
FRIDAY NIGHT IS
CABARET NIGHT

See Matchday magazine and the Wednesday Wolves Family Page in the Express & Star for news of top local acts appearing live at the

Terrace Bar
(01902) 687033

Sponsors Spotlight



Big Match sponsor from the West Bromwich Albion game was Hoppe (UK).

Pictured receiving a gift from their chosen Man of the Match Neil Emblen is Roger Benton, Managing Director

**Win great prizes with Wolves ClubCall
Ticket Information and Prizeline**

**Questions for week commencing
Monday 3 February**

1. Who is Huddersfield Town's manager? Is it:

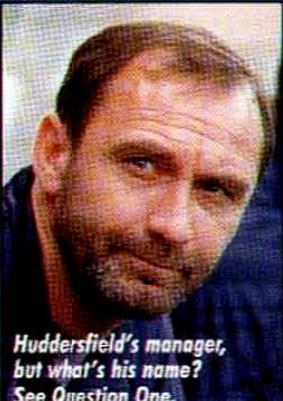
- a Brian Horton
- b Brian Holton
- c Brian Hobton

2. What is the former name of Huddersfield's ground?

Was it:

- a Leeds Park
- b Leeds Road
- c Leeds Street

**Lines open at 9am on
Monday 3 February and close
at mid-day the following
Sunday.**



*Huddersfield's manager,
but what's his name?
See Question One.*

PRIZE: A £40 gift voucher for the Molineux Superstore

To enter call: 0891 121823

Calls are charged 39p/min cheap rate and 49p/min at all other times

Back pain why suffer?

Back pain is very common in both athletes and non athletes alike. It can vary from a nagging nuisance to a severe incapacitating pain.

A full range of treatment is available from highly qualified staff, using up to date techniques and the latest equipment.

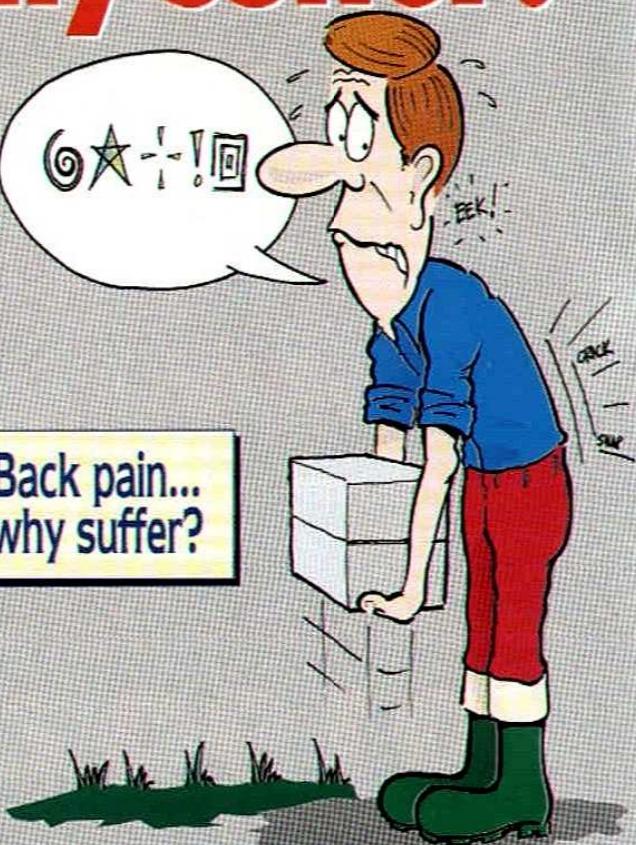
The centre is available to the general public and offers clients a prompt and professional treatment.

**For advice and further information
contact senior physiotherapist
Sharon Thomas on:**

(01902) 22105

**Molineux Physiotherapy and
Sports Injury Centre**

**Back pain...
why suffer?**



Ticket Update

Home fixtures

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 1997

V STOKE CITY

Kick off 3.00pm

Tickets now on sale to the general public.

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 1997

V CRYSTAL PALACE

Kick off 3.00pm.

Tickets now on sale to the general public.

SATURDAY 1 MARCH 1997

V IPSWICH TOWN

Kick off 3.00pm.

Tickets go on sale as follows:

Saturday 1 February - Saturday 8 February (inc) - Members only. One ticket per person on production of current membership card.

Monday 10 February - Saturday 1 March (inc) - General Public. One ticket per person, subject to availability.

of current membership card, subject to availability.

Saturday 1 February - Saturday 8 February (inc) - General Public. One ticket per person, subject to availability.

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1997

V BARNESLEY

Kick off 3.00pm.

This game is all ticket for Wolves supporters and our allocation is 4,000 seats at £12.50, £11.00 and £10.50 adults with concessions at £6.50.

Tickets go on sale as follows:

Saturday 25 January - Friday 7 February (inc) - Club Associates only. One ticket per person on production of voucher 'R' from season ticket book. Maximum of 2 vouchers per person.

Saturday 8 February - Friday 14 February (inc) - Members only. One ticket per person on production of current membership card, subject to availability.

Saturday 15 February - Saturday 22 February (inc) - General Public. One ticket per person, subject to availability.

Away fixtures

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 1997

V HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

Kick off 3.00pm.

This game is all ticket for Wolves supporters and our allocation is 3,700 seats at £10.00 adults and £6.00 concessions.

Tickets go on sale as follows:

Saturday 11 January - Friday 24 January (inc) - Club Associates only. One ticket per person on production of voucher 'Q' from season ticket book. Maximum of 2 vouchers per person, subject to availability.

Saturday 25 January - Friday 31 January (inc) - Members only. One ticket per person on production

TUESDAY 4 MARCH 1997

V BIRMINGHAM CITY

Kick off 7.45pm

This game is all ticket and our allocation is 3,600 seats at £13 each no concessions.

Tickets go on sale as follows:

Saturday 1 February - Friday 14 February (inc) - Club Associates. One ticket per person on production of voucher 'S' from season ticket book.

Saturday 15 February - Friday 21 February (inc) - Members only. One ticket per person on production of current membership card (subject to availability).

Saturday 22 February - Tuesday 4 March (inc) - General Public. One ticket per person (subject to availability)

TICKET OFFICE
01902 653653

TICKET INFORMATION LINE
0891 121823



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the wedding of a close
relative coincided with the
divisional play-off final?**



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Call free on: **0800 30 20 10** quoting ref: FB036

or visit our football site on
<http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

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You must be 16 or over to apply for a FlexAccount. Overdrafts, Payment Cards and cheque guarantee cards are only available to those 18 or over. The opening of a FlexAccount, the provision of a cheque book and the provision of a credit facility are subject to appraisal of an applicant's financial standing. The automatic overdraft of £250 is available for customers with a Payment Card. Written quotations for credit facilities are available from: Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, Pipetts Way, Swindon, SN38 1NW. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme, and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice. Please note that for various legal, regulatory and customer service requirements your call will be recorded.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Getting shirty

Soccer School Sensation

The community department is taking bookings for the biggest soccer school ever held by Wolves.

Kids between the ages of seven and 15 are signing up for the extravaganza during February's half-term break.

The FA qualified community coaches are aiming to put 200 budding soccer stars through their paces. The four-day course will end with a visit to Molineux to meet Mark McGhee and the first team players.

There will be three venues all running at the same time between Tuesday 18 February and Friday 21 February, beginning at 10am and ending at 3pm.

The venues are: Regis High School, Wednesfield High School and Parkfield High School.

In addition to meeting the players, each participant will also receive a certificate and a free match ticket.

The cost is just £27.50.

Application Form

Places are limited so in order to secure your place, please return this form along with your cheque or postal order as soon as possible.

Name: _____ Boy Girl

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Age: _____ D.O.B. _____

Signed _____ (Parent/Guardian)

PLEASE TICK VENUE PREFERRED

1. Regis High School
2. Wednesfield High
3. Parkfield High

All cheques to be made payable to:

Wolverhampton Wanderers Community Programme. Unfortunately

no refunds can be made because of non-attendance

However, a free place will be made available at a future Soccer School.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for confirmation of your place on the course

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PHONE: TONY EVANS ON
716348 or 655000

That shirt did the trick again.

The giant replica given to the club by Puma was first passed above the heads of cheering supporters back in September when Wolves scored a memorable victory at the Hawthorns.

In an attempt to re-kindle that same atmosphere among the Wolves faithful, the shirt was bought out of storage and again weaved its magic in the return fixture.



Great come-back

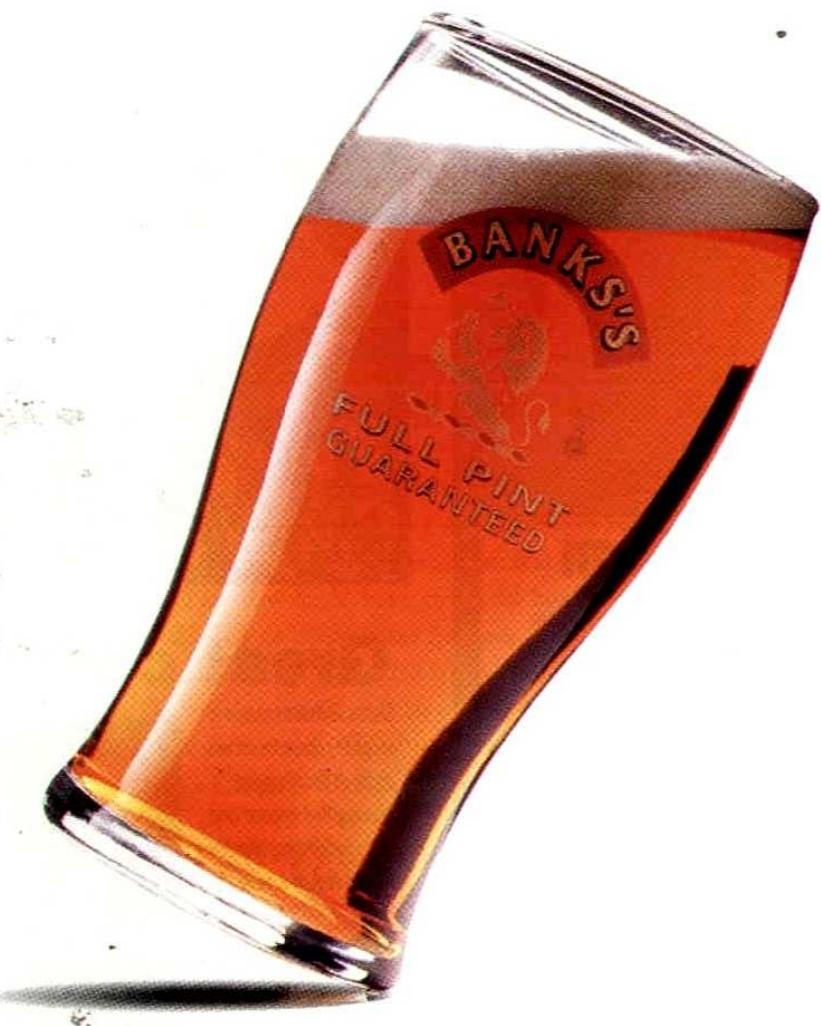
Dean Richards made a mighty return to action against the Baggies, scoring the opener and then picking up the Man of the Match award to boot.

Dean received his prize from Owen Buxton of the Nationwide Building Society, along with a cheque for £100 which is given to the Man of the Match to hand over to a school of their choice.

Dean will be sending the money to a school in his native Bradford.



Tipping the balance.



Not too bitter.
Not too sweet.
Perfectly balanced.

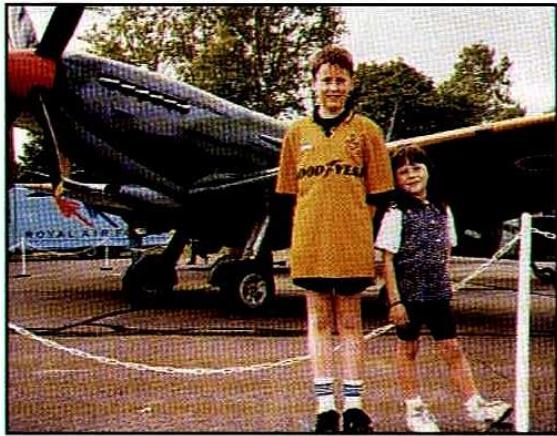
Banks's... a balanced beer in
an unbalanced world.



Dear Editor

Could you please mention our son Lee Thompson in your matchday magazine - he is pictured here with his sister Lauren. Lee attends every home match sitting in the seats just above the players tunnel and was 10 years old on January 13th.

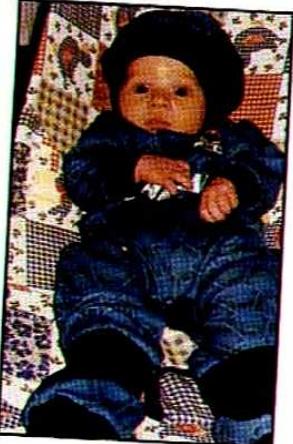
Denise & Peter Thompson (mom & dad) - Coseley.



Dear Editor

This is our grandson Aaron. It would be great if you could print his photograph in the matchday magazine, we both have season tickets in the Billy Wright Stand.

Thank you,
Bob and Barbara Stanton - Albrighton Wolverhampton.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

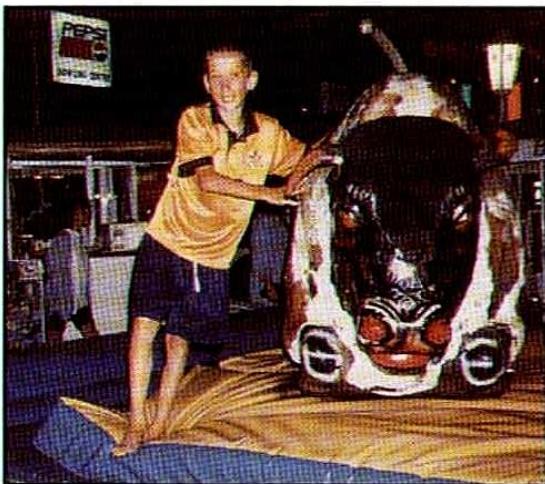
DENIS SKELDING
who is 80 years old today.
With love from all your family.

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our son Gavin Nigel Perry who is seen here taming "The Bull" whilst on our holiday in Ibiza Gavin will be 14 today, and he is a season ticket holder in the Billy Wright Stand with his father.

Mr & Mrs N Perry, Kidderminster, Worcs.



Dear Editor

My husband Phillip and I were on Thassos (a Greek island), on the day Wolves played Swindon in September 1996. As a small tribute we decided to wear our shirts for the day so imagine our surprise when we rounded a corner and in front of us was another Wolves shirt, in fact several. We had this photo taken but do not know the names of the other Wolves fans, we hope they enjoyed their holiday as much as we did.

Laura Tudor - Guildford, Surrey



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Blackburn Rover F.C. 1994
Tranmere Rover F.C. 1994



Stockport County F.C. 1994
Queens Park Rangers F.C. 1995
Liverpool F.C. 1995
Bristol City F.C. 1996
Wolves F.C. 1996
Training Ground



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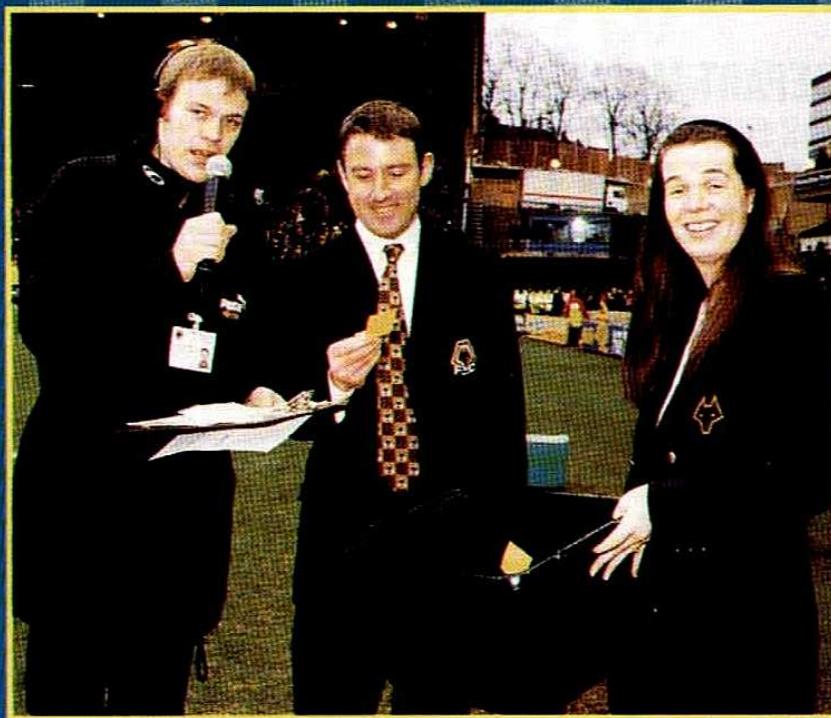
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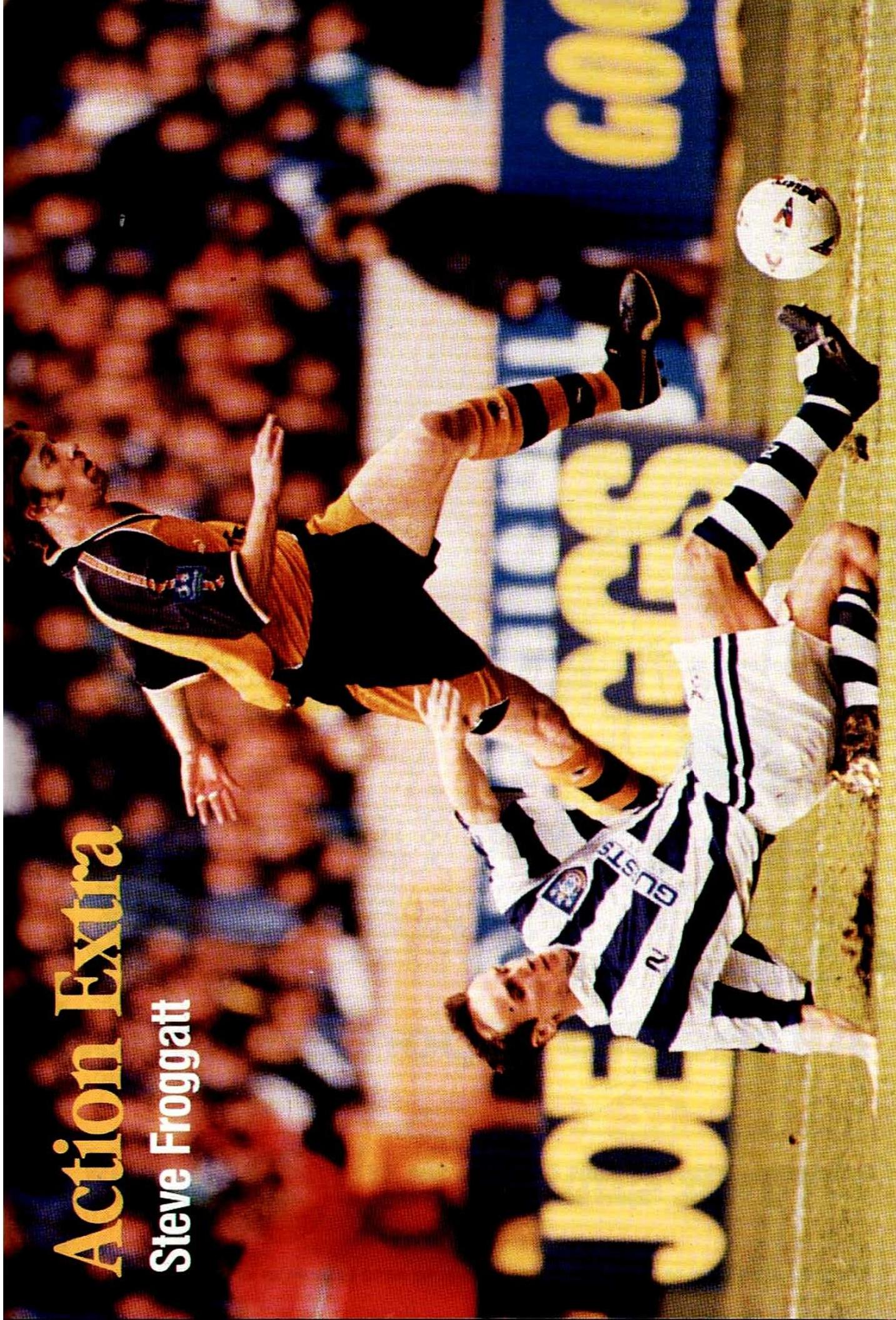


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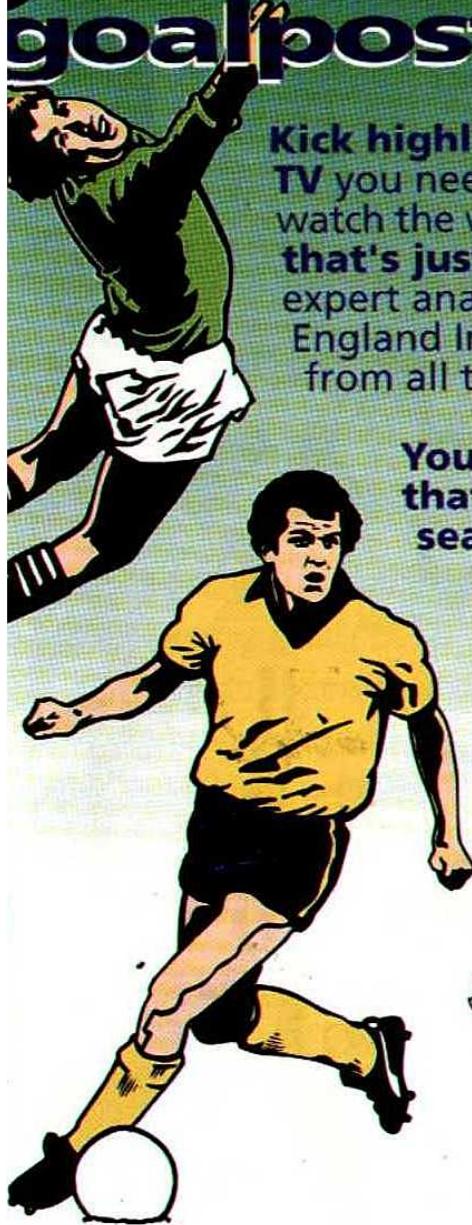
Action Extra

Steve Froggatt



CABLE TV

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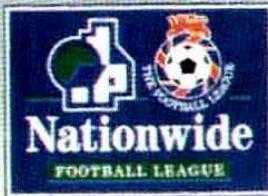


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TELEWEST
COMMUNICATIONS

Young Wolves

Tonight's mascot is **Matthew Cooper**,
age 11, from Dudley



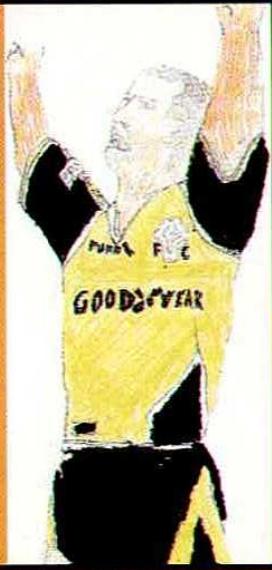
I am looking forward to being mascot as I get to go on the pitch and have a kick around with some of the players. It is my birthday the day after the match so it will be a great way to celebrate. My favourite player is Steve Bull because he scores lots of goals and is loyal to the club.

I play for Springfield Lions under 12's 'B' team in the Stourbridge Youth League. When I am older I would like to play for Wolves.

Joining me is Gregg Smith, age 12, from Kingswinford. He became a Young Wolf so he could meet his favourite players and fulfill his dream and also feel closer to the club. His favourite game was against Albion at home when we beat them 2-0 - my favourite game was also against Albion but when we beat them 4-2 away and Iwan Roberts scored his hat-trick.

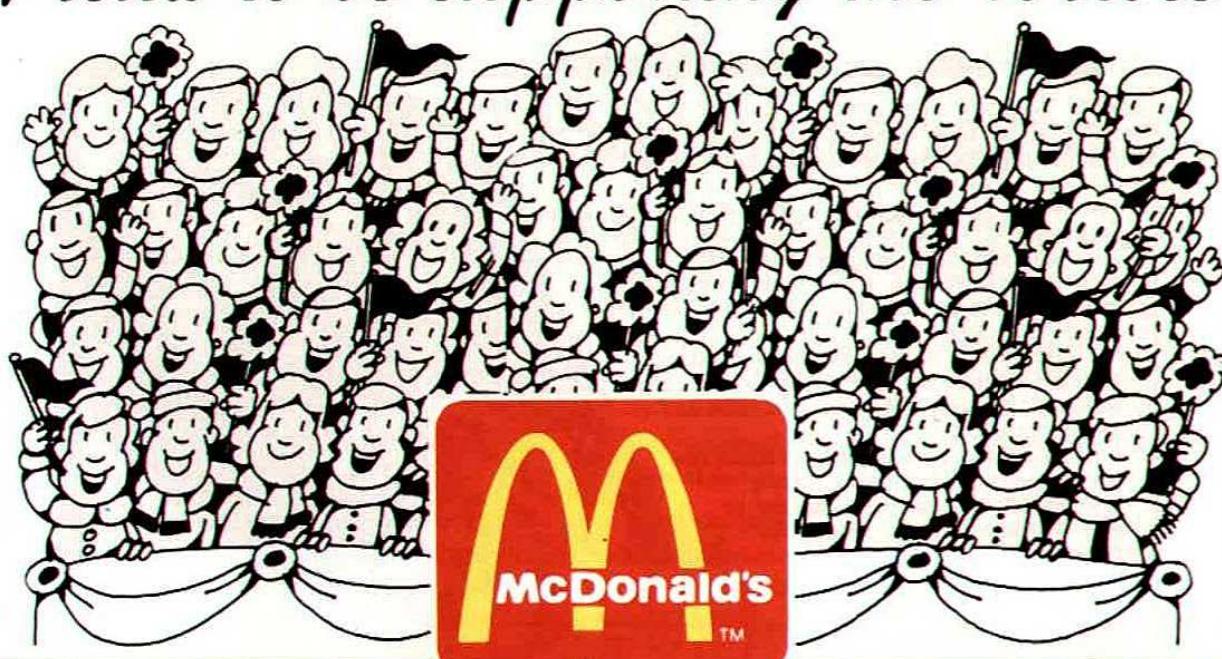


This picture of Bully celebrating a goal was sent in by Joe Davies, age 8, from Hednesford



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Coming up

Lou Macari is doing it again. A much under-estimated manager, he has brought nothing but success in his two spells at the helm of Stoke City, Wolves' opponents at Molineux on Saturday. A former Scotland international with an eye for a bargain and a hard line in man-management, Macari has spent a fraction of the sums at the disposal of his rivals to follow up last season's finish of fourth place by keeping the side in the play-off frame this term.

Macari made his name in management, between 1984 and 1989, in leading tonight's opponents Swindon from the fourth division to the old second division play-offs before spending a year at West Ham. He took Birmingham City to Wembley success, in the Leyland Daf



Lou Macari has an eye for a bargain

Cup, in 1991 before starting to build the platform Stoke are now launching from.

His Stoke team won the Autoglass Trophy and finished fourth in the third division in his first season in charge before winning the championship the year after. Macari sold Mark Stein for £1.5 million to Chelsea before leaving to try his luck at his former playing home at Celtic. When circumstances dictated that didn't work out, he was welcomed back to the Victoria Ground as Joe Jordan's replacement in 1993.

Eleventh place was followed by reaching the play-off semi finals last season, where they lost to Leicester. Macari traded Keith Scott and £150,000 to Norwich City in exchange for Mike Sheron, who proceeded to rattle in 15 league goals from 23 starts. He maintained that phenomenal rate this season, with 21 goals from his first 31 games, provoking bids in excess of £2 million. But Macari has also enticed Stein to return from Chelsea, so far on loan, and he has scored five goals in his last seven games.

As Stoke prepare to move to their new all-seater Britannia Stadium next summer, Macari may at last be able to prove himself at the top level.

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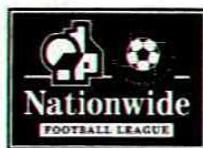
Similarly, Nationwide has a relationship with many households in the UK – around one in four. It looks after the financial needs of over seven million people and is the UK's largest building society intending to remain customer owned, committed to putting customers first.

Nationwide is an organisation with strong roots in the community and we are always looking for new ways to promote awareness of the benefits we can offer and to strengthen relationships with customers even further. With 72 league

clubs and 630 Nationwide branches throughout England and Wales, we are looking forward to working with The League and its member clubs to support community initiatives and forge even closer links with local people. Wherever you find a football team you'll find a Nationwide team.

Nationwide's philosophy is to be "in tune with people", and we believe that the help we can give in investing in football's future will further demonstrate this and underline our general commitment to meeting customers' needs.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish your club a successful season.



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ROMANTIC ROBBIE

Romance is in the air for Robbie Dennison.

The Wolves midfielder, who is currently celebrating 10 years of service to the club, will be hosting a special Valentine's evening at The Barn, Halfpenny Green Vinyard, Bobbington.

There will be a rose for Robbie for all the ladies, and a free glass of a brand new 'Champagne' type wine produced at Halfpenny Green Vinyard.

Tickets for the event on Saturday 15 February, which includes a buffet and free wine tasting, are £15 available by ringing Rod Vaughan on 01902 895800 (daytime) or 01902 333433 (evening).

Pictured practising his wine waiter's routine is Robbie with vinyard secretary Sue Davies and manager Martin Vickers.



Wolves ClubShop

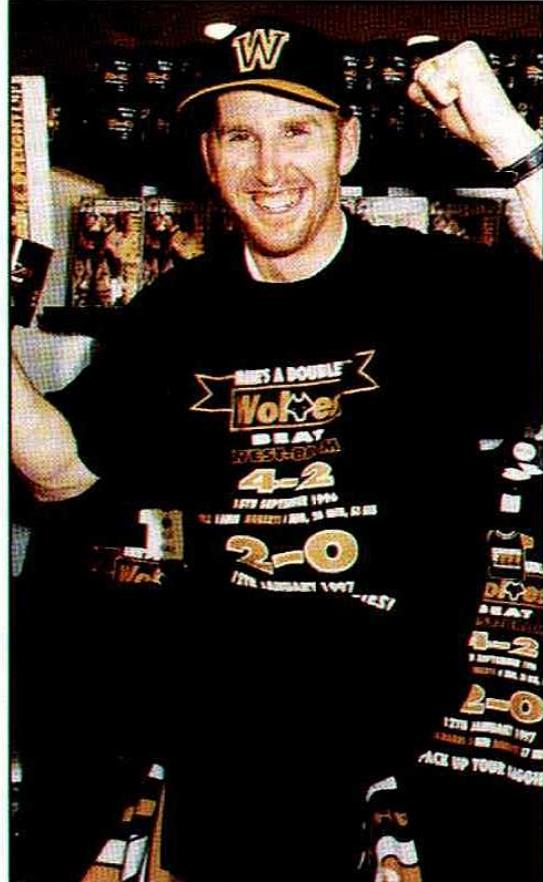


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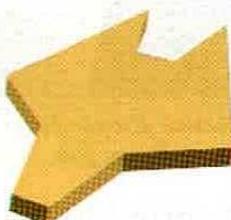
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Division

Buckley first to fall in '97

As the dust continues to settle on major developments at two of Wolves' recent opponents, the eyes of the Nationwide League are focussed on where the duo will now turn.

For Sheffield United, the search is centred on players after £5 million was made available to manager Howard Kendal by a shares issue at Bramall Lane.

The Blades boss has been bidding his time since being made aware of the windfall, unwilling to rush into business and disturb the balance or morale of a squad already strongly in the race for the Premiership.

But he is thought to be lining up two major excursions in the market before the late-March transfer deadline to try to push to club over the finishing line and back into the top flight after

three seasons of First Division Football.

At Albion, meanwhile, the pursuit has been for a new boss after Alan Buckley last week became the first managerial casualty from the First Division in 1997.

Bruce Rioch, who has been operating as No 2 to Stewart Houston at QPR since his sensational sacking at Arsenal in August, was immediately named favourite, with Port Vale's John Rudge, former Wolves striker Cyrille Regis and two other available men, Ray Wilkins and Ray Harford, also mentioned.

But the word from The Hawthorns was of a possible long wait as the post was advertised and chairman Tony Hale spoke of a thorough search, abroad as well if necessary, to recruit the right man.

Among the main qualities demanded of the new man will be a higher public profile - an area in which the Hawthorns board clearly felt Buckley let himself down.

Wolves' victorious trip to Sheffield United on Friday night, meanwhile, gave them their first glimpse of Bramall Lane's new John Street Stand and they may see more stadium changes when they next hit the road - for the game at Huddersfield a week on Saturday.

Work on a new 5,000 seat stand at the award winning McAlpine Stadium is to get underway within six weeks and will be completed in 12 months, taking the capacity to 24,000.

The new stand will also house

a fitness and leisure complex, a hotel and conference centre and a swimming pool.

Mark McGhee and Colin Lee were at Stoke a week ago to look at Lou Macari's side before their visit to Molineux this Saturday. But they saw two early goals by visiting Norwich, giving Mike Walker's men a sixth away win of the season that confirms their bad run is behind them.

The Canaries' win lifted them into fourth place above Wolves in the table but it came at a cost, with goalscorer Keith O'Neill stretchered off with what appeared to be a serious leg injury. Also on target was Darren Eadie, who has recently signed a one-year extension to his Carrow Road contract.

Norwich have been busy again planning for the future, albeit in this case the short term, by signing Tottenham centre-half Kevin Scott on a month's loan. The 30-year-old was drafted in to replace John Polston, who faced two weeks on the sidelines after suffering a groin injury in the recent 2-1 victory over Grimsby.

Birmingham lost out to the Canaries around Christmas time when on-loan Everton full-back Mat Jackson was sold to East Anglia rather than St Andrew's, but they moved quickly to make sure there was no repeat with West Ham's Kenny Brown. They agreed last week to pay the Hammers £75,000 for the full-back, who had been on loan at Blues for almost a month.

Birmingham, while hit by a transfer demand from the talent-



Bruce Rioch: favourite for the Albion job

Review



Gary Breen: return from injury

ed Paul Tait, have been strengthened before the impending two-match suspension of Steve Bruce - he misses the games against Bolton and Albion - by the return to fitness of Gary Breen. The Republic of Ireland international central defender made his comeback in the reserves on Wednesday night after being sidelined since he was attacked outside a London restaurant on Christmas Eve. He suffered a

gashed head and fractured hand in the assault and needed surgery to repair the damage to his hand.

Breen lined up in a Pontin's League clash against Blackburn Rovers at Hednesford before making a first team return in Saturday's FA Cup fourth round tie with Stockport County.

Troubled Manchester City have been giving a trial to Czech Republic international Vaclav Nemecek as they bid to strengthen their defence.

The 29 year old defender could be available for a nominal fee to City manager Frank Clark, who has also had Fenerbahce striker

Dalian Atkinson training at the club. Crystal Palace have agreed an undisclosed fee with Arsenal for defender Andy Linighan. The 34 year old Gunners centre half was due to discuss personal terms with Palace boss Dave Basset over the weekend.

If the move has gone ahead, it will start to redress the balance after the big-money departures of Claus Thomsen and Matt Elliott from the First Division to the Premiership, their moves having recently taken them from Ipswich and Oxford to Everton and Southampton respectively.

David Instone, Express & Star

DIVISION ONE LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bolton Wanderers	29	11	3	1	34	13	5	7	2	27	24	58
Sheffield United	28	7	5	3	28	16	7	2	4	21	15	49
Barnsley	27	8	3	3	28	14	5	5	3	18	18	47
Wolves	28	5	3	6	17	14	8	4	2	22	14	46
Norwich City	28	7	6	2	19	10	6	0	7	20	28	45
Stoke City	27	9	1	3	20	14	3	6	5	16	22	43
Port Vale	29	4	7	4	22	19	6	5	3	14	13	42
QPR	28	6	3	5	21	17	5	5	4	21	23	41
Crystal Palace	27	6	3	4	25	13	4	7	3	26	17	40
Ipswich Town	29	6	6	2	26	17	4	4	7	15	22	40
Oxford United	28	9	3	2	26	9	2	4	8	13	23	40
Tranmere Rovers	28	7	3	4	26	19	4	3	7	11	17	39
Huddersfield Town	29	8	4	3	23	12	2	5	7	12	25	39
Portsmouth	29	6	3	5	18	15	4	3	8	14	21	36
Birmingham City	25	7	4	1	18	6	2	5	6	10	18	36
Swindon Town	28	7	5	3	28	15	3	1	10	12	23	35
Charlton Athletic	28	6	4	4	18	16	4	1	9	12	22	35
West Brom Albion	29	3	7	5	25	24	4	6	4	19	26	34
Reading	28	6	6	2	19	15	1	3	10	12	28	30
Oldham Athletic	27	3	5	5	14	16	3	5	6	16	18	28
Manchester City	27	6	2	5	17	16	2	2	10	12	26	28
Bradford City	29	5	4	5	16	21	1	5	9	11	24	27
Southend United	28	4	5	4	20	20	1	5	9	6	31	25
Grimsby Town	27	3	4	7	15	25	2	6	6	16	25	24

UP TO AND INCLUDING MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 1997

League appearances

Appearances and goals 1996/7

	Lge	FA Cup	CC Cup	Total
Atkins	aps	26+1	1	2 29+1
	gls	1	0	0 1
Bull	aps	28	1	2 31
	gls	13	0	0 13
Corica	aps	20+2	1	2 23+2
	gls	2	0	0 2
Crowe	aps	3+1	0	0 3+1
	gls	0	0	0 0
Curle	aps	3+1	0	0 3+1
	gls	0	0	0 0
Dennison	aps	9+3	1	0 10+3
	gls	1	0	0 1
Dowe	aps	5+3	0	0 5+3
	gls	0	0	0 0
Embleton	aps	15+1	1	0 16+1
	gls	0	0	0 0
Ferguson	aps	3+3	0+1	1 4+4
	gls	2	1	0 3
Foley	aps	0+4	0	0 0+4
	gls	1	0	0 1
Froggatt	aps	16	0	2 18
	gls	0	0	0 0
Goodman	aps	6+5	1	0 7+5
	gls	2	0	0 2
Leadbeater	aps	0+1	0	0 0+1
	gls	0	0	0 0
van der Laan	aps	7	0	0 7
	gls	0	0	0 0
Osborn	aps	20+1	1	1 22+1
	gls	5	0	1 6
Pearce	aps	4	0	0 4
	gls	0	0	0 0
Richards	aps	19+2	0	2 21+2
	gls	1	0	0 1
Roberts	aps	18+1	0+1	2 20+2
	gls	8	0	0 8
Romano	aps	1+3	0	1 2+3
	gls	0	0	0 0
Smith	aps	23+1	1	1+1 25+2
	gls	0	0	0 0
Stowell	aps	28	1	2 31
	gls	0	0	0 0
Thomas	aps	9+1	1	0 10+1
	gls	1	0	0 1
Thompson	aps	16+2	0	2 18+2
	gls	2	0	0 2
Venus	aps	27	1	2 30
	gls	0	0	0 0
Williams	aps	1	0	0 1
	gls	0	0	0 0
Wright	aps	0+1	0	0 0+2 0+3
	gls	0	0	0 0 0
Young	aps	1	0	0 1
	gls	0	0	0 0

Up to and including Friday 24th January 1997

Editor: Lorraine Hennessy

Design: Michelle James

Match Photography:

Action Images

Repro and print: Precision Colour
Printing, Telford

1996/7



Date	Day	Opponents	Attn	F-A	Pos
Aug 17	Sat	Grimsby Town	7,910	3-1	Stowell Smith
Aug 20	Tue	Swindon Town CCC1(1)	7,451	0-2	Stowell Smith
Aug 24	Sat	Bradford City	24,171	1-0	2 Stowell Smith
Aug 28	Wed	Queens Park Rangers	25,767	1-1	5 Stowell Smith
Aug 31	Sat	Norwich City	14,456	0-1	6 Stowell Smith
Sept 4	Wed	Swindon Town CCC1(2)	10,760	1-0	Stowell Smith
Sept 6	Fri	Charlton Athletic	21,072	1-0	6 Stowell Smith
Sept 10	Tues	Oxford United	7,468	1-1	7 Stowell Smith
Sept 15	Sun	West Bromwich Albion	20,711	4-2	3 Stowell Smith
Sept 21	Sat	Sheffield United	25,170	1-2	4 Stowell Smith
Sept 27	Fri	Swindon Town	8,572	2-1	3 Stowell Smith
Oct 2	Wed	Bolton Wanderers	26,540	1-2	5 Stowell Smith
Oct 5	Sat	Reading	23,193	0-1	6 Stowell Smith
Oct 13	Sun	Southend United	5,550	1-1	6 Stowell Smith
Oct 15	Tue	Portsmouth	7,411	2-0	3 Stowell Smith
Oct 19	Sat	Port Vale	22,755	0-1	6 Stowell Smith
Oct 27	Sun	Manchester City	27,296	1-0	4 Stowell Smith
Oct 30	Wed	Huddersfield Town	22,376	0-0	6 Stowell Smith
Nov 2	Sat	Barnsley	22,840	3-3	5 Stowell Smith
Nov 17	Sun	Birmingham City	22,627	1-2	9 Stowell Smith
Nov 23	Sat	Crystal Palace	20,655	3-2	7 Stowell Thompson
Dec 1	Sun	Manchester City	23,911	3-0	6 Stowell Thompson
Dec 7	Sat	Ipswich Town	12,048	0-0	5 Stowell Thompson
Dec 14	Sat	Oldham Athletic	22,528	0-1	6 Stowell Smith
Dec 21	Sat	Tranmere Rovers	9,674	2-0	5 Stowell Smith
Dec 26	Thu	Oxford United	26,511	3-1	5 Stowell Smith
Dec 28	Sat	Charlton Athletic	12,259	0-0	4 Stowell Smith
Jan 4	Sat	Portsmouth FAC3	23,626	1-2	Stowell Smith
Jan 12	Sun	West Bromwich Albion	27,336	2-0	4 Stowell Smith
Jan 18	Sat	Bolton Wanderers	18,980	0-3	4 Stowell Smith
Jan 24	Fri	Sheffield United	17,490	3-2	4 Stowell Thompson
Jan 29	Wed	Swindon Town			
Feb 1	Sat	Stoke City			
Feb 8	Sat	Huddersfield Town			
Feb 15	Sat	Crystal Palace			
Feb 22	Sat	Barnsley			
Mar 1	Sat	Ipswich Town			
Mar 4	Tue	Birmingham City			
Mar 8	Sat	Tranmere Rovers			
Mar 15	Sat	Oldham Athletic			
Mar 22	Sat	Bradford City			
Mar 29	Sat	Grimsby Town			
Mar 31	Mon	Queens Park Rangers			
Apr 5	Sat	Norwich City			
Apr 12	Sat	Reading			
Apr 19	Sat	Southend United			
Apr 26	Sat	Port Vale			
May 4	Sun	Portsmouth			
		TBA Stoke (away)			

League matches - home

League matches - away

WOLVES

WOLVES & GOALS



Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Corica	Bull 3	Roberts	Osborn	Young	Wright	Ferguson 2s
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Corica	Bull	Roberts	Ferguson	Young	Smith 2s	Wright 8s
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Corica	Bull 1	Roberts	Osborn	Ferguson 5s	Romano	Crowe
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Corica	Bull	Roberts	Osborn 1	Ferguson	Romano	Crowe
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Corica	Bull	Roberts	Osborn	Ferguson	Segers	Crowe
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Corica	Bull	Roberts	Osborn 1	Ferguson	Wright 8s	Romano
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson 1	Corica	Bull	Roberts	Osborn	Ferguson 8s	Segers	Wright
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Corica	Bull	Roberts 1	Osborn	Wright 8s	Segers	Curle 4s
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Corica	Bull 1	Roberts 3	Osborn	Ferguson	Segers	Wright
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson 1P	Corica	Bull	Roberts	Osborn	Ferguson	Segers	Wright
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Ferguson 1	Bull	Roberts	Emblen	Corica 11s	Segers	Foley 2s 1
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Ferguson 1	Bull	Roberts	Emblen	Corica 11s	Romano	Foley 10s
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Thompson	Ferguson	Bull	Roberts	Corica	Emblen 11s	Romano 2s	Crowe 10s
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Van Der Laan	Corica	Bull 1	Dowe	Crowe	Ferguson	Romano 2s	Leadbeater 8s
Froggatt	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Van Der Laan	Corica	Bull 2	Dowe	Crowe	Ferguson	Romano 3s	Foley 11s
Pearce	Atkins	Venus	Young	Van Der Laan	Corica	Bull	Dowe	Crowe	Dennison 10s	Romano	Foley 8s
Pearce	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Van Der Laan	Emblen	Bull 1	Dowe	Dennison	Corica	Foley	Goodman 10s
Pearce	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Van Der Laan	Emblen	Bull	Dowe	Dennison	Foley	Goodman 10s	Osborn 4s
Pearce	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Van Der Laan	Goodman 1	Bull 1	Emblen	Osborn	Roberts 7s 1	Dowe 10s	Dennison 3s
Thompson	Atkins	Venus	Richards	Van Der Laan	Goodman	Bull 1	Roberts	Osborn	Thomas 7s	Emblen	Dennison 8s
Dennison	Atkins	Venus	Emblen	Corica 2	Thomas 1	Bull	Roberts	Osborn	Goodman	Van Der Laan	Smith
Dennison 1	Atkins	Venus	Emblen	Corica	Thomas	Bull	Roberts 2	Osborn	Goodman	Dowe 7s	Smith
Dennison	Atkins	Venus	Emblen	Corica	Thomas	Bull	Roberts	Osborn	Ferguson	Goodman 10s	Smith 2s
Dennison	Atkins	Venus	Emblen	Corica	Thomas	Bull	Roberts	Osborn	Dowe 8s	Goodman 7s	Richards 6s
Dennison	Atkins	Venus	Emblen	Corica	Thomas	Bull 1	Goodman	Osborn 1P	Roberts	Dowe	Richards 8s
Dennison	Atkins	Venus	Emblen	Corica	Thomas	Bull	Goodman 1	Osborn 2	Ferguson	Dowe	Richards
Dennison	Atkins	Venus	Emblen	Corica	Thomas	Bull	Goodman	Osborn	Ferguson	Dowe	Law
Dennison	Atkins	Venus	Emblen	Corica	Thomas	Bull	Goodman	Osborn	Ferguson 7s 1	Law	Roberts 10s
Froggatt	Venus	Curle	Richards 1	Emblen	Thomas	Bull	Roberts 1	Osborn	Ferguson	Thompson 3s	Goodman
Froggatt	Venus	Curle	Richards	Emblen	Thomas	Bull	Roberts	Osborn	Atkins 8s	Thompson 11s	Goodman 7s
Froggatt	Atkins 1	Williams	Curle	Corica	Emblen	Bull 1	Goodman	Osborn 1	Roberts	Venus	Ferguson

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Rover Swindon

Wolverhampton Wanderers
would like to welcome
their guests Expotel

Wolverhampton Wanderers

1	Mike Stowell	8	Neil Emblen
2	Andy Thompson	9	Steve Bull
3	Steve Froggatt	10	Don Goodman
4	Mark Atkins	11	Simon Osborn
5	Adrian Williams	12	Iwan Roberts
6	Keith Curle	13	Mark Venus
7	Steve Corica	14	Darren Ferguson

Swindon Town

1	Fraser Digby	8	Kevin Watson
2	Mark Robinson	9	Steve Cowe
3	Jason Drysdale	10	Wayne Allison
4	Scott Leitch	11	Kevin Horlock
5	Mark Seagraves	12	Wayne O'Sullivan
6	Marlon Broomes	13	Alex Smith
7	Mark Walters	14	Frederic Darras

Those in Black

 **Terry Lunt**
Ashton-in-Makerfield, Nr Wigan

 **Brian Curson**
Hinckley

 **Des Morrison**
Littleover, Derby

 **Andy Garratt**
Willenhall