

Will Yeovil F.C. Make History?

To-Morrow's Clash With Cup-Holders

West Country Folk "Invade" Manchester

[BY R.G.K.]

Engine whistles shrieked and detonators exploded on the line as the fully bedecked train in green and white pulled out from Pen Mill Station yesterday (Thursday) morning, taking Yeovil Town's team of part-time professional footballers to meet the holders, Manchester United, at Maine-road, to-morrow (Saturday), in the 5th Round of the F.A. Cup.

"Will Yeovil's team of players drawn from factory, workshop and office make modern soccer history, by being the first non-league club to reach the 6th Round of the competition? This was the question uppermost in the minds of the crowd who gave them a resounding send-off. There were cheers, too, from many early morning workers, as they arrived at the station to catch their buses to local factories.

Player-Manager Alec Stock, whose name is already being linked with a number of managerial vacancies existing among League clubs, said "We are going to Manchester, not without hope. We shall give the Cup-holders a hard game." Club President, Mr. Stanley Johnson, who accompanied the party, wore an orchid for good luck, and Chairman, Mr. Bert Smith, was at the station to give the party of 20 a last word of encouragement.

Before the team left, a portable wireless was presented by Mr. J. Hart, a gift which Mr. Hart promised the Chairman if the team beat Sunderland in the last round of the Cup. At the last minute several players rushed from the train to fetch the crate of eggs and sherry, the match-winning tonic, which had somehow been overlooked.

News of the team's departure spread all along the line, and I saw groups of people lining wayside stations where "Good Luck" slogans had appeared over-night.

WELCOME TO THE NORTH
"A great welcome awaits you in Manchester. Everyone here is eagerly looking forward to your visit," was the message received by Yeovil Town's Chairman, from Mr. Matt Busby, Manchester United's manager. The Yeovil team, which is staying at the Midland Hotel, have been offered facilities for training by the United, and the players will do some limbering up this morning.

To-day (Friday) Yeovil supporters will be travelling North by road and rail in the biggest exodus the town has ever known. Late to-night six special trains will take 3,000 followers to Manchester. B.B.C. recording units will be at the Yeovil stations, and a moving microphone will record the views of some of the "fans" making the journey.

Many hire cars and motor coaches will be leaving to-day from numerous parts of the West Country, several of the parties making an all-night journey. A big section of supporters have booked seats at the various evening shows in Manchester on Saturday, and do not intend to commence the return journey until Sunday.

Several parties will do the journey in 80 minutes by air on the morning of the match. Altogether over 5,000 West Country folk are expected to see the match at Maine-road, where a 80,000 "gate" is anticipated. The Mayor of Yeovil (Ald. B. Denning), who is travelling to Manchester this (Friday) morning, will be among the spectators at the game.

Selection of Yeovil's team will be left until the last minute. Right-half Bob Keeton who displaced a cartilage in last week's Southern League game against Hereford United has made good progress and says he is fit to play. Inside-forward Jack Roy travelled to Manchester as reserve, and goalkeeper Victor Dyke was also among those accompanying the team.

Alec Stock's biggest problem, whether to play Stanley Hall or Vic Dyke in goal had been eliminated. While training on Tuesday, Dyke, who signed professional forms following his brilliant display in the Sunderland tie, cut his knee and had to have four stitches inserted.

YEovil FACE CUP FAVOURITES
Yeovil's opponents, 7 to 2 favourites to win the Cup for the second year are one of the wealthiest clubs in the country, but have built up expensive squad comparatively lately.

The Scottish left-winger, who cost them £6,000, the remainder have graduated from junior football. Three of them, English internationals Johnny Aston (left-back), Henry Cookburn (right-half) and Stan Pearson (inside-right) are products of the United's own Junior Athletic Club.

Captain of the side is right-back Johnny Carey, an Irish international who captained the Rest of Europe against Great Britain, at Hampden Park two seasons ago. A goal is 23-year-old Jack Crompton, who has been with the United for four seasons, while the pivot—one of the best in the country—is Allen Chilton, who went to Manchester from Seaham Colliery in 1938. Originally a full-back, left-half Billy Mitten played in North Eastern League Football until two seasons ago.

The leading goal scorer is Jack Rowley, an inside-left to whom international honours have, for a long time, been "just around the corner" and leader of the attack is Ron Burke, a former Luton Town amateur. Outside-left Charlie Mitten, for whom Chelsea offered £12,500, is another England player.

Praise of Yeovil Town's success continues to reach the Club, but greatest tribute of all is the offer by last round opponents, Sunderland, to play them a friendly at Roker Park. Invitations to Yeovil to play in Ireland, Holland and the Channel Islands during the summer have also been received.

"EXILES" PROUD OF YEovil
Pride in Yeovil Town's achievements which have been front page news in Canada, as well as France, Belgium and Sweden, has been expressed by Yeovil emigrants in letters to their friends in the town and to this newspaper.

"Our little town has hit the headlines here in all three large dailies," writes Mr. Arthur Harrison, a former Western Gazette compositor, who is employed on the "Daily Star", Toronto, Ontario, the paper which had a trans-Atlantic phone interview with the Mayor (Ald. B. Denning). Cuttings from the same newspaper have also been sent to Mr. Vic Marsh, Swan Inn, Park-street, by his brother, Geoffrey, who emigrated last Easter.

Mrs. H. C. Marsh, who with her husband emigrated last September, wrote from 301, Hastings-avenue, Penticton, to her sister, Mrs. F. H. Wilson, 144, Goldcroft, "Yeovilians out here are wildly excited."

"Yeovil had by far the most news space out here and really was in the limelight," wrote Mr. Reg Lawrence, 3,505, 31st Street, Vernon, British Columbia, a former member of Yeovil N.F.S. and a director of Deayton's Ltd., Vincent-street, who emigrated last Spring.

The West Country Association in Cheshire have also written to the Western Gazette wishing Yeovil Town success in to-morrow's game. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. C. W. Cotton) says "If the team should be lucky enough to come to Liverpool we shall be very pleased to meet them with us for an evening's entertainment."

£5,000 APPEAL
GROUND IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
The Western Gazette is delighted that recent events have made the Directors of the Yeovil Town Football Club conscious of the limited ground amenities which they are able to supply for their supporters and visitors. They have accordingly determined to exert every effort to make the ground worthy of the town and of the position which the Club holds as the principal non-league club in the West Country.

In consultation with their Architect plans have been drawn up for the provision of increased stand accommodation, completion of the terracing further portion of which they propose to cover. The dressing-room accommodation and general amenities provided for the Club's and visiting teams during evenings, and this is included in the new plan.

An appeal for a Ground Improvements Fund of £5,000 has been launched by the Supporters' Club. A Sub-Committee has been appointed, from the Board of Directors to further this appeal. An excellent start has been made. Already subscriptions have been promised, some as high as 100 guineas. The Directors announce that the Mayor of Yeovil has promised his full support to the appeal, and they are confident that a generous response will be made by all sportsmen in the West Country.

Subscriptions should be addressed to the Secretary, Yeovil Town Football Club.

GREAT WELCOME BY MANCHESTER

We've Got Some Surprises, Says Yeovil's Alec

By PAT KAVANAGH

Manchester, famed for its warm-hearted—almost as much as for its rain, has given a real North Country welcome to the eleven men from Yeovil who are confident that they are going to beat Division I. Manchester United of the F.A. Cup to-morrow.

A good-natured welcome awaits the players who will make the long journey by road and car. Manchester confidently expects to see them to-morrow. The Yeovil reply is "That's all we think."

ALEC STOCK from all the problems of a football team on the eve of a match—had a good day. I had just read of a report that centre-half Les Blizzard, right winger Bob Hamilton and centre-forward Eric Bryant would be transferred almost immediately if Yeovil were beaten. "Yeovil are not beaten yet. They are a long way from it," he said.

Some May Be Interested

Alec's fruity laugh preceded a denial that there were any immediate prospects of players leaving the Yeovil camp. "I shouldn't be surprised if some clubs are interested in a couple of our players. I think we have a good team—and Manchester will find that out to-morrow," he said. "This air of quiet confidence is apparent through the whole team. They respect the great United reputation, but are not frightened by it. "We shall go on to the field and play our own game, and we may have a few shocks up our sleeves for the home crowd," says Captain Stock. To-day the boys are taking things easily. They were early to bed last night after a visit to the cinema, and soon after breakfast they were out for a short practice,

lasting about an hour, on the United's "A" team ground, lent them for the occasion.

A quiet afternoon, another show, this time at the Manchester Hippodrome, another early night, and Yeovil will be all ready for their great effort to make more football history.

Grass Widows

Not very far away—but not with them—will be 12 women, "grass widows" for the day. They are the wives of the players. They are travelling to Manchester separately by train to-day, and will stay at a different hotel.

Apart from watching their men-folk, clad in green and white, playing football on the huge Maine-road ground, they will see a little of their husbands.

But they will represent at a party given by the directors to the players after the game. The party will be on, win or lose.

Latest news of the team is that goalkeeper Hall is quite fit, and is certain to play. Wing half Keeton is also fit, but a final decision on whether he will play, or not will not be made until later, probably after a short work-out to-day.

To-morrow morning, after breakfast, Alec will gather a few papers under his arm and take his boys into a private room for their final tactical talk before the game.

His main point will be this—"Go all out for an early goal. When you get it continue all out

for another at least a third."

Another man who is on duty all night, a special staff, seeing that 3,000 supporters get away on time in six special trains.

The first should be out of Pen Mill Station at 11.20 to-night, the last at 3.15 a.m. to-morrow, "and," says Stationmaster Hole, "we are determined to see that our biggest task in years goes off without a hitch."

For the fans it is an all-night journey. For Mr. Hole it will be a worry until the last of his charges is safely de-trained at Yeovil in the early hours of Sunday morning.

81,000 ADMIRERS YEovil AS A GALLANT SIDE

By Albert Booth

WITH grins and handshakes all round, Yeovil departed to the admiration of an 81,565 Maine-road multitude for the sporting, courageous way they had unceasingly fought against overwhelming odds.

A first feeling of humiliation that they should lose by eight goals to Manchester United was consoled in the dressing-room by the reflection that this had happened to them from the "world's greatest football team."

It was all over five minutes after it began. Yeovil's obvious intention was an early shock goal. They were only a matter of inches from success straight from the kick-off.

Then a header, which goalkeeper Hall failed to hold, opened Rowley's successive set of three goals in 20 minutes, and five in all.

Not A Massacre

Although the score looks like a massacre, it was never that. Manchester were always all out, partly because it makes sound football sense, but also because Yeovil were always full of fight. Slick in open play when they got on the move, they were always in the toils of master backs, Carey and Aston, with Chilton between them very good, as he had to be, to hold Bryant.

The major barrier to Manchester was Stanley Hall, the mighty man in goal, whose second-half display was the more amazing since he was under the hand-cup of a severe groin injury, the result of colliding with Rowley when the third goal was scored.

Yet it was a gallant Yeovil defence all round. United had to play hard for their goals. Outstanding centre-half Blizzard was calm and mightyly efficient, often providing the means of attack despite the task of challenging up-and-coming centre-forward Burke, who got two fine goals. Mitten scored the other.

Stars among the stars could be picked out in this dazzling Manchester United, but the fact of the matter is that they are a one-for-all and all-for-one team. With good reason they have a tremendous belief in what their art and craft can achieve.

Yeovil 'David' couldn't stop 'Goliath'

UNITED SHOWED CLASS

THERE was no David and Goliath act at Maine-road, yesterday. The green-shirted Yeovil team, hope of the West Country, failed to emulate their Bury and Sunderland triumphs, and went down 8-0 to Manchester United, the Cup holders.

Yeovil's consolations were a share in a £7,141 gate paid by 81,565 people, and the wonderful reception they had from the crowd.

Outclassed in every department, Yeovil—a plucky side—always tried to play football, and they were a sporting crowd throughout. But they lacked the snap of the First Division side and could never get to close quarters.

Their forwards kept the ball on the ground but too close, and they invariably lost possession before there was any serious threat to Crompton in United's goal.

Yeovil forced a corner within 30 seconds, and Bryant and Wright figured in some skilful moves, but a hat-trick by Jack Rowley settled the issue.

Goalkeeper Hall, who took some time to settle down, allowed a downward header by Rowley to pass by his legs into the net after six minutes.

Five minutes later Rowley shook the back of the net from Mitten's centre, then, after 21 minutes, Hall was hurt in running out to tackle the unmarked Rowley, who steered the ball into the goal.

Thirty-seven minutes had ticked away before Crompton had to stop his first real shot—an effort by Bryant.

Long passes to the thrustful Delaney, who had plenty of room to work, gave the outside-right the opportunity to indulge in many spectacular flashes down the wings, and he revelled in his chances.

Hall failed again (43 minutes) when he was unable to gather a hard shot from Burke, who followed up to force the spinning ball past the goalkeeper.

Yeovil were a well-beaten team in the second half. Burke (47 min.), Rowley (65), Mitten (71) and Rowley (88), turned their defeat into a rout.

Under the impression that Mitten was off-side, Yeovil were standing still as the winger cut in to score as he liked, with the hardest shot of the game.