

MANAGER, CAPTAIN—  
STAR PLAYER

SO it's Sunderland," grinned ALEC STOCK, Yeovil's inside-right, skipper, manager and only permanent member of the Somerset club's staff, when the Cup draw was announced.

There was no need for Alec to add that he was unworried. The grin was eloquent and infectious. Within half-an-hour the whole town was wearing a carbon copy. It was while he was working out tactics for tanks in France during the war that ex-Capt. Stock decided there was a better future for him as a manager than as a professional footballer.

But he still recalls the slight shock when, in 1946, the Yeovil F.C. Board pulled his name from a batch of 60 applicants, which included Arsenal's famous Cliff Bastin, and gave him his first managerial job. Alec was then a Q.P. Rangers player. It is a coincidence that Yeovil's first player-manager, when the club was reorganised in 1923—Jack Gregory—also came from Rangers.

Stock admits it took him three months to "learn to play sideways" on the Yeovil slope, but he became a power in the side—a hard-working, half-back-cum-forward, who could talk tactics and work them out on the field. The club's shaky financial position didn't frighten him because he was brought up among overdrafts as a young clerk in a London bank.

Several of the players are older than he is (29), but they all respect his keen judgment and enthusiasm for training.

CLIFFORD WEBB.



YEOVIL TALK OVER THEIR CUP PLAN



PREPARING to meet Sunderland in Saturday's fourth round Cup tie, some of the Yeovil players talk tactics. Alec Stock, manager and inside right, is discussing moves with (left to right at back), Bryant (centre forward), Blizzard (centre half), Keeton (right half), and (front) Davis (left back), Wright (inside left), Hickman (right back), Hamilton (outside right).

Even the dogs  
wear Yeovil  
Cup colour

By JOHN MACADAM

YEOVIL, Friday night. — The most excited person in Somerset tonight is ten-year-old Rex Rainey, Yeovil Town mascot, who will take the field with them against Sunderland wearing the special colours of player-captain Alec Stock.

Rex has scored 12 goals in 15 games for his school team and counting on the Town side and let him down in their fourth round Cup tie.

The entire 22,000 population of Yeovil is cheering for him and his fever.

Shop windows are decorated with Yeovil's green and white. Even chemists are displaying medicines packed in either green or white containers.

ONLY ONE TOP

The dogs are running around the streets self-consciously with white rosettes round their necks, and the only local conversation is—Who will draw in the next round? Fantastic rumours run round the town.

"A syndicate in London has flooded Somerset with counterfeit tickets. Bands of determined men will make an assault on the town. People will be trampled to death in the crowd."

These are the police chief's words with a smile. There will be no trouble. The likelihood of 17,000 people will be accommodated.

Man-with-a-problem is Alec Stock who has to decide early tonight if he dare play goalkeeper. Stock is still unhappy about his injured shoulder.

Alec himself dropped his dreary secretarial job of 15 years ago last afternoon, bombarded the goal for half an hour, and came away saying, "Dubious."

HIS BIG TEST

It is likely that 22-year-old Billy Dyke, their six-foot-three goalkeeper, will face the responsibility of playing the first game with the first team in the biggest match yet.

Hudgell is definitely out of the Sunderland side, and Rainey is in his place.

Billy Murray took the place over the sloping field today. His only comment was, "If we are beaten, we shall not blame the pitch."

Yeovil got a last-minute offer of victory when a gentleman offered the gub'nor, George Keeton, up seats for the stand on the fact that they would be in the First Division.

The extra seating accommodation already arranged comprised beer boxes around the line and the question of seats is likely to be deferred.