

READING MIDFIELD PLAYER IMPRESSES CECIL IRWIN

# Dixon talks terms at Huish

**C**ECIL IRWIN, the Yeovil Town player-manager, has 'talked terms' with Wilf Dixon, the 22-year-old midfield player freed by Reading. Although Dixon had an unspectacular match against Hereford on Wednesday, when Yeovil lost 5-0 in the last of four testimonial games, Irwin said: 'I like the look of him. He could provide real competition for midfield places.'

Dixon, who was included in the team against Hereford as a guest player, made 37 Fourth Division appearances for Reading in the season just ended and 36 in the previous year.

He had four seasons as a junior on Arsenal's staff before joining Reading in the summer of 1969.

Said Yeovil's manager: 'The conditions were against him on Wednesday and we weren't playing well—we were far too casual whereas Hereford treated the match competitively. But Dixon is a grafter and he always gives 100 per cent. effort.'

'I would like to see him at Huish and I have talked terms with him. He has now gone home to think things over and have a chat with his wife about it.'

Irwin is also expected to hear shortly whether Dixon's Reading colleague, Peter Harman, is prepared to come to Yeovil. Harman, a 21-year-old centre-forward, was offered a contract on the strength of the two goals he scored against Wolverhampton Wanderers when he guested in the second of the testimonial matches.

One man high on Yeovil's wanted list who won't be coming to Huish is Peter Higgins, the winger released by Bristol Rovers. He looks set to join Doncaster, and should there be any last minute hitches, other Fourth Division clubs want him, including Exeter City and Gillingham.

Said Irwin: 'It's a pity, but I gather Maurice Setters has

by  
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offered him money that we just couldn't match.'

Apart from the two Reading players, Irwin has nothing in the immediate pipeline regarding new men. 'With the annual meeting of the Football League just a week away, I cannot really do more until we know whether our application for a place in the Football League has been successful,' he said.

Yeovil will spend this last crucial week working industriously, and unsensationally, towards their goal of a League place. They have learned from Hereford's Chairman Frank Miles that in Hereford's first 'big push' several promised votes did not materialise.

## Merger

But P.R.O. Bryan Moore said yesterday that Yeovil were 'very hopeful, although obviously not confident of success.'

I asked Mr. Moore if the news of the proposed merger between the Southern and Northern Premier Leagues would soften

the blow if Yeovil should fail to get elected.

'That league won't interest us at all,' he replied. 'It doesn't start until 1974-75 season, and I think it is certain that if we don't get into the Football League this year, we shall next.'

The management committees of the Southern and Northern Leagues have unanimously accepted the suggestion to form a new National League.

It is now up to the clubs themselves to decide at their forthcoming annual meetings if they want it.

The suggestion is that there should be a top tier of 22 clubs who would play in the Premier Division of the National League.

The joint committee, set up to consider the amalgamation, has suggested that 15 clubs from the Southern League and Seven from the Northern Premier League, should form the Premier Division.

The 22 named are: Chelmsford City, Weymouth, Yeovil, Kettering, Dover, Worcester, Bedford, Nuneaton, Barnet, Margate, Hillingdon, Cambridge City, Wimbledon, Teiford, Romford, Boston, Wigan, Scarborough, Gainsborough, Stafford, South Shields and Altrincham.

After that there would be regionalisation of the remaining clubs, with 22 in the North, 22 in the Midlands and 24 in the Southern groups.



DIXON—'I like him,' says Irwin

## MATCH SPOT

### Yeovil Town 0, Hereford Utd. 5

Yeovil came down to earth with a mighty bump against Hereford at Huish on Wednesday.

Having beaten Fulham and Wolves in the series of testimonial games for Paul Smith, Ken Thompson, Alan Herritt and Chris Weller Yeovil must have fancied their chances against the team that was in the Southern League a year ago.

But Hereford showed the 3,131 crowd who turned up in constant drizzle to see the game, just why they will be in the Third Division next season.

Their style of football was not spectacular, but on a pitch too treacherous for Yeovil's midfield men, they were always tight and strong. In fact Yeovil, for whom only Cotton, Cottle and Smith impressed, hardly had a look in.

Their best chance came right on half-time when John Clancy

David Icke turned it round the post.

Hereford were already one up, following a 25th minute far post header by centre-half Billy Tucker, and in the second half they rammed in four more.

Alan Jones, David Rudge and substitutes Ken Wallace and Paul Lee all had fine goals, while Yeovil just stood and stared.

The home side brought on Bert-ram and ex-manager Mike Hughes for Myers and Irwin in the second half but it made little difference. Trialist Wilf Dixon, from Reading, buzzed around for a while but seemed to be put out by the rain.

He certainly should not be judged on this performance when the team as a whole were sadly out of touch. In fact the only thing to stop Hereford from their march towards victory was a large black and white dog which invaded the

## COUNCIL GRANT FOR CLUB?

Yeovil Town Council is to consider making an annual grant to the local Football Club in recognition of its amenity value and the trade it brings to the town.

The idea was put forward at Tuesday's meeting by Mr. David Hawker, who said Yeovil was extremely fortunate to have a football club which was well known throughout the country. In addition, they had provided excellent facilities at their ground.

Mr. Leslie Deacon supported the suggestion, but felt that if a grant were made, the Council should have some sort of representation on the Football Club's management.

The Amenity Committee have