

Football League chairmen will meet in London on June 1 to decide on the non-Leaguers' claims to Fourth Division status. This year they will have before them the shining examples of Hereford and Cambridge. And with this in mind, they will vote—perhaps for the teams whose claims we examine today.

Yeovil are ready to go

By PATRICK COLLINS

WHEN the manager of Yeovil Town takes to calling his club a "mini-Sunderland," you feel he's talking for the locals.

They may well lap it up in Crewkerne or Glastonbury, but it's a difficult line to sell outside Somerset.

Yet nobody laughs too loudly when Cecil Irwin trots out his favourite phrase, because 15 years of toil at the heart of Sunderland's defence gives you the right to talk like that.

Big Cecil—leggy, bald, resolutely untrendy—was a happy man last Saturday afternoon when Sunderland were composing their legend at Wembley.

He'll be happier still if sufficient League chairmen are persuaded to give Yeovil their vote.

Great

"All those years I was at Sunderland, I could feel the club was capable of greatness," he says. "The facilities, the crowd, the talent; it had everything a big club ought to have."

"It just needed someone to get it all together and release it. Bob Stokoe could sense it and inside six months he's cracked it."

"I feel exactly the same way about Yeovil. This club's got everything it takes to get into the League and do well. We just need the League clubs to give us the chance."

"It really came home to me in the Cup this season when we played Plymouth and Brentford at home. When that winner went in against Brentford, there were about 9,000 people in the place and they made a noise like the Roker roar. It brought it all back!"

Yeovil's desire to make the League is scarcely new. They have been trying almost every year since 1927, refusing to be discouraged by the fact

that they've rarely rated more than two votes.

A series of giant-killing Cup runs since that day in 1949 when they beat Sunderland have, as yet, left the League chairmen unconvinced.

This time, Irwin thinks they may have made the pieces fit. "I reckon the odds are about 60-40 in our favour," he says. "We've really worked at it this year. Our directors have been all over the place talking to chairmen and they've been promised a lot of support."

The crowd potential is there; we've got 200,000 people to draw from and there's no other form of entertainment in these parts.

Our sloping pitch is costing us £5,000 to put right and, with Hereford and Cambridge having done so well, I think the League clubs are ready to give another non-Leaguer a chance. At the moment things are looking good."

Richest

They will look even better for Irwin if he can conclude arrangements with Sunderland for his testimonial match, promised him when he left Roker Park a year ago.

The way things are in the North-East at the moment, Sunderland could draw 30,000 to watch them play snooker. An early-season match at Roker would leave Irwin not only the newest manager in the Football League, but also one of the richest.



IRWIN—hoping