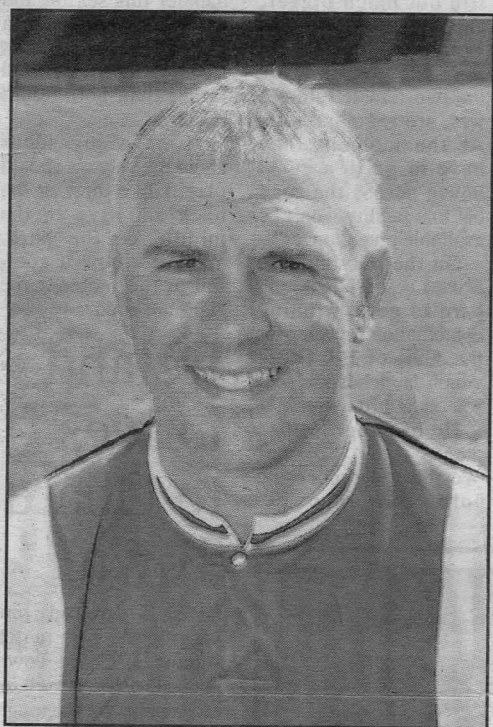


ROBERTS' GERMAN MISSION



● **GRAHAM ROBERTS**, the Yeovil Town manager, whose surprise spying mission to Germany could result in two new players for Huish Park.

John Lukins reports

GRAHAM Roberts flew to Germany at his own expense at the weekend to spy on two players. And he hopes that both will be playing for Yeovil Town "in a week or two".

The ultra-keen Huish Park boss acted on a tip-off from an old pal and said: "It was well worth the trip. I think I have a good chance of getting them and if I do I forecast that First and Second Division clubs will be after both of them within a few months".

But Roberts, a happy man when he left Germany, had the smile wiped off his face when he landed and heard that Yeovil had lost 2-0 in a friendly at Weymouth in his absence.

"It was an absolute disgrace", he said. "After the good displays at Huish Park against Barnsley, Portsmouth, West Ham and Dorchester, the attitude was totally wrong".

For the second time within a few weeks Roberts accused a few of his players of being unfit and warned: "The time has come for action. I will give one or two a week to get things right and convince me they mean business. Otherwise they will be on their way".

Roberts is also closing in on a midfield player with a non-league club who, I understand, has become a free agent on a technicality.

Signing today?

There were hopes that the so-far unnamed player would appear at Huish Park last night in the pre-season friendly with an Everton XI. But the move was not completed in time, although there are hopes that it will go through today.

Although the player involved is now non-league, my information is that he has played a lot of matches in the Football League.

Yeovil have now called off next Tuesday's home game with Weymouth in the second leg of the Dorset Echo Cup because there are numerous niggly injuries in the squad and Roberts wants to get players fit for the opening ICIS League match against Grays Athletic the following Saturday.

His already-small squad will be further reduced on that day by suspensions to himself and skipper Micky Engwell, carried forward from last season.

Leroy Whale, who got the goal in the 1-1 draw with West Ham, is struggling with a thigh injury and Jamie Laidlaw had a knock at Weymouth that left him struggling.