

# Daggers' boss admits: 'You should have won'

THERE was a broad smile on the weather-beaten face of experienced Dagenham manager Ted Hardy when he emerged from the dressing room after Tuesday's goalless draw at Huish Park in the ICIS League. "You should have beaten us by two or three", said the man who has taken charge of the team relegated from the Conference.

It was certainly a better result for the Daggers than Yeovil.

Dagenham do not expect to be among the title challengers, but Yeovil do. And if Graham Roberts' team are to make a serious bid for honours they cannot afford to drop many home points.

Roberts put a brave face on it. "There was a lot that pleased me. After giving away two silly goals at Grays on Saturday we tightened up at the back and I thought the three lads in the middle all had good games".

The problem for Yeovil was that they

couldn't get the ball in the net.

After only two minutes Dean Birkby should have scored but was way off target with a header. And in the seventh minute Warren Patmore's header rebounded off a post and was hacked clear.

It set the scene for an evening of frustration. Dagenham defended well, with a useful central defensive partnership of Steve Conner (one-time non-league international) and Glyn Creaser (one-time Yeovil loan player). But they were always up against it.

## Flurry

A final Yeovil flurry seemed destined to do the trick. But man-of-the-match Chris Seymour missed a chance and Patmore flashed a header across the goal when he had only the goalkeeper to beat.

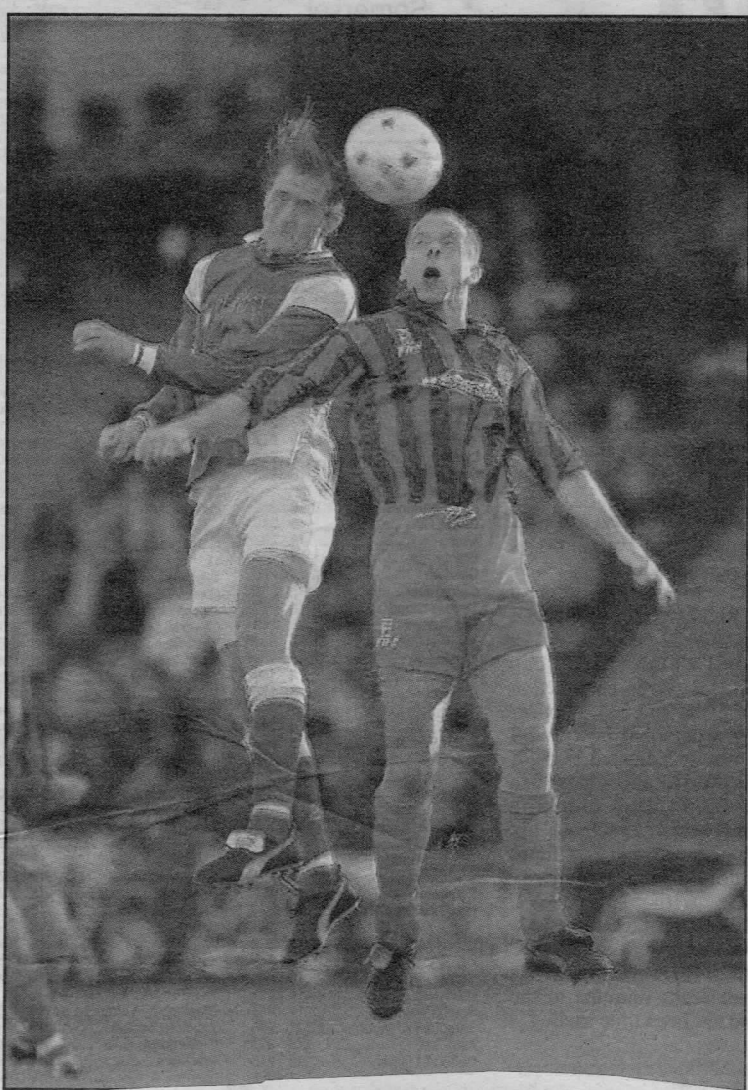
Disappointing though it was, Yeovil showed that they are starting with a better team than last year. New centre-half Lee Harvey is beginning to show the class that almost per-

suaded ex-Yeovil manager Barry Lloyd to take him to Brighton two years ago.

The weakness was up front. Although Patmore made himself available and was the pick of the three, there was a lack of mobility.

It was a fact recognised by Roberts. "We were static at times", he said. "That's why I made a substitution to put Tony Pounder up front for the closing stages".

With Chris Moors - "why does everyone keep putting an 'e' in my name?" - and Jamie Laidlaw challenging for first team places, the big names up front are no longer assured of automatic selection.



Report by John Lukins