

Merthyr not as good as Taunton or Tiverton, admits Roberts

# Seven of my players bottled out, blasts boss after Cup exit

ONE Welshman wasn't rejoicing after Merthyr Tydfil's 2-1 FA Cup victory at Penydarren Park on Saturday.

Yeovil Town's Swansea-born goalkeeper Tony Pennock was mourning the defeat that means Yeovil will have to battle through the earlier qualifiers again next season unless they reach the FA Trophy final. "We just didn't play in the first half, did we?", he moaned. You have got to give Merthyr some credit, they didn't let us settle. But we are very disappointed with our overall display".

Manager Graham Roberts was more outspoken. "This was the FA Cup. You would have expected everyone to be fired up.

"But seven of the players just weren't performing in the first half. I brought off Lee Harvey to bring myself on but it could have been any one of the seven.

"They have let down myself, the club and the fantastic supporters and I left them in no doubts about their futures unless they knuckle down to the job.

"I didn't think Merthyr were as good as Taunton and Tiverton but we let them bully us".

Pennock agreed the opening Merthyr goal, a diving header by Gareth Abraham from Steve Mardenborough's 27th minute free-kick was a beauty.

But he claimed the

## Report by John Lukins

80th minute winner touched in by substitute Chris Summers, again laid on by Mardenborough, had an element of luck about it.

Yeovil had equalised in the 66th minute with a glancing header by Jerry Gill and Pennock said: "At that stage I wasn't looking for a replay - I was expecting to win it. Merthyr were knackered".

Roberts led by example in the second half and Yeovil certainly improved. And even

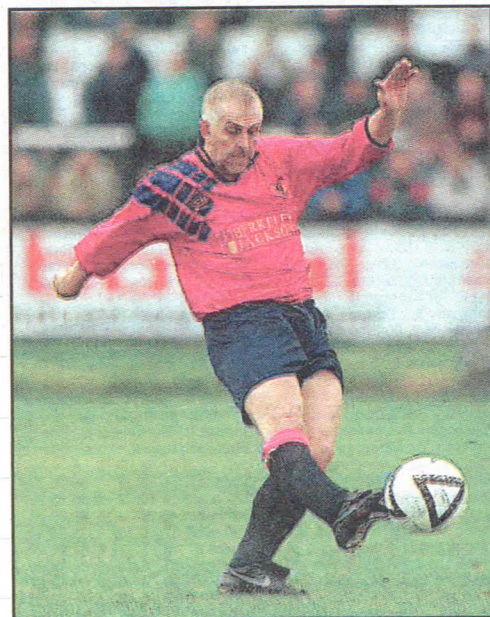
after the second Merthyr goal they should have saved the day. Chris Moors, with the goal at his mercy, wasted a simple scoring opportunity two minutes from time - underlining how much Yeovil had missed Warren Patmore, their top scorer, who was ruled out of the game through hamstring trouble.

For one Merthyr player revenge was sweet. Greg Downs, the former Norwich City player, was Hereford's player-boss when Yeovil beat them in the Cup four years ago. He has been languishing with little Malvern but was brought back by Merthyr's manager Colin Addison to add experience to his team.

Addison's side now head for Leyton Orient in the first round proper. Yeovil head for some big away league games needing to prove to Roberts and the fans that they don't bottle out on the big occasion.



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● GRAHAM ROBERTS - in action at Merthyr Tydfil