

Record fee for striker – and there's more to come TOWN PAY £20,000 FOR GOAL ACE

UNIVERSITY student Howard Forinton left his Bristol digs on Friday to head home to play for Oxford City – but before midnight he had become the most expensive player in Yeovil Town's history. It cost the club £20,000 to bring the 21-year-old striker to Huish Park.

Yeovil had refused to reveal the fee. They say Oxford City asked them to keep it under wraps.

But Oxford themselves have been more forthcoming. They say it was a record sum for both clubs, and that the package "should be worth in excess of £20,000". They have also revealed that the deal gives them 20 per cent of any sell on profit.

For manager Graham Roberts, who completes his second year at the club on Saturday, it is his 37th signing, and one of the most important. He had Forinton in his ICIS League XI and has long admired his

pace and finishing ability. "He will always score goals, and although we have been winning matches not many of them have been by emphatic margins", said Roberts. "I said some time ago that we needed an extra player or two"

Forinton will be included in the Yeovil attack to entertain Hitchin tomorrow, and he will be accompanied by signing No 38, an unnamed free-transfer winger who is due to sign at training tonight.

Hold up

This player, also from the ICIS League, was originally due to sign on Monday but there was a hold up over the seven days' notice of approach.

Roberts confirmed they will both be in his starting line-up. "I was pleased with everyone at Dagenham on Saturday, but against Hayes on Monday there were still a few who went missing on the big occasion. I have got to remedy this".

Forinton, who likes the ball at his feet rather than in the air, had scored 17 goals in 26 games this season for promoted Oxford City. He has already played against Hitchin – "I got a hat-trick against them".

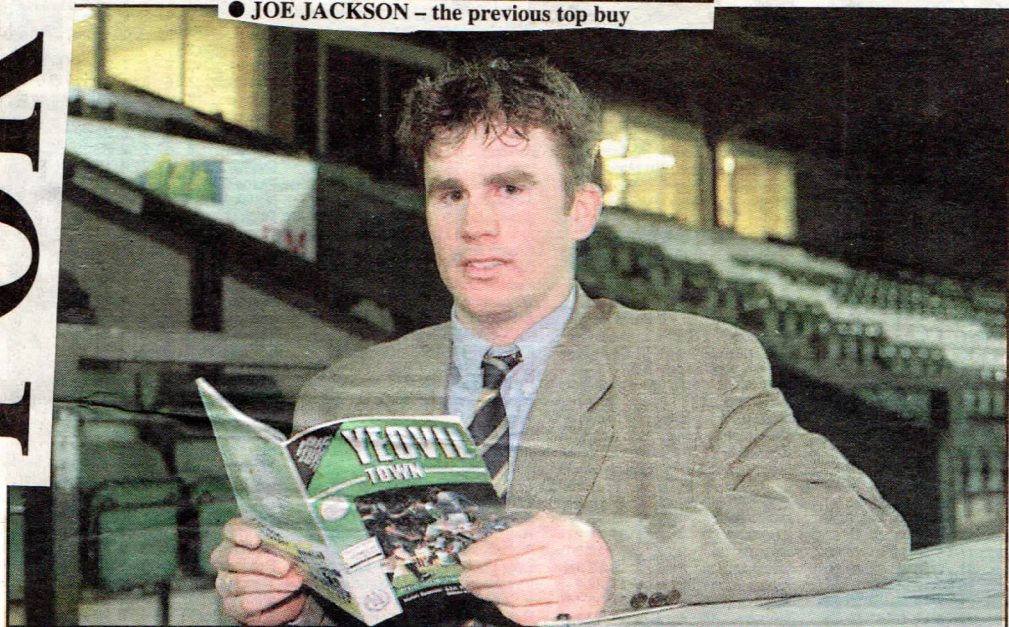
He served his YTS with Oxford United but was released despite scoring 20 goals in 30 youth team games. "They said it was for financial reasons, but that might have been an excuse".

He is now studying leisure management but is keen to make a mark in professional soccer and said: "Yeovil is a big club so it was a great move for me. After signing I was whisked off to Dagenham and although I had met some of the Yeovil lads when we played for the ICIS League, it was the first time I had been introduced to some of them. They made me feel welcome, and I thought I fitted in okay and played quite well".

Yeovil's previous record signing was Joe Jackson, the midfielder from Worcester City. He cost £15,000 when he arrived in 1990. He was unable to settle in the area and after 24 games moved back to London and signed for Dover. Yeovil recouped their cash.



● JOE JACKSON – the previous top buy



● STUDYING THE FORM. New boy Howard Forinton has a look at the match programme at Huish Park on Monday where he was a spectator as Yeovil Town lost to Hayes in the FA Trophy. His home debut was put on ice as he was ineligible for this competition. Picture by Nigel Andrews.