

FOCUS on our VISITORS

IN this their second season under the management of Don Howe, West Bromwich went the first seven League games without a win, at which stage they were at the bottom of the First Division. They ended that spell at home to League Champions Derby County and, by taking seven points from the last five matches (three wins, one draw, one defeat) they have made the steady climb of eight places up the table.

On their only previous visit to London this season Albion won 2-0 against Crystal Palace. Last Saturday they were held two-all at home to Manchester United after leading 2-0, Tony Brown having one of his rare penalty-kick lapses and shooting wide when a goal would have put the score at 3-1 and would probably have settled the match.

We had decidedly mixed experiences against Albion last season. We beat them here by the only goal early in the season, but found them in form when we went to The Hawthorns at the end of April, conceding four goals to the two Browns, Gould and Cantello and managing nothing

in reply. All of which, in our view, made their dismal opening to this season all the more mystifying.

WEST BROMWICH PLAYERS

PETER LATCHFORD: 19-year-old goalkeeper and youngest of three brothers currently playing First Division football—we faced the other two, Bob and Dave, at Birmingham last Saturday. Groomed in Albion's youth team, he made League debut against Sheff. Utd. in August. Born Birmingham. 6 ft., 12 st.

GORDON NISBET: This England Under-23 International full-back (one cap) made his League debut two years ago—as a goalkeeper. Following reserve appearances in midfield and attack, he was successfully switched to full-back by Don Howe. Born Wallsend-on-Tyne. 5 ft. 10 in., 11 st. 4 lb.

RAY WILSON: Young Scottish full-back who began his career on the wing but his speed has been best utilised in defence. Missed only two League games last winter. Born Grangemouth. 5 ft. 9 in., 11 st. 7 lb.

LEN CANTELLO: Versatile 21-year-old midfield player who gained his first England Under-23 cap last season against E. Germany. Approaching 100 League appearances. Born Manchester. 5 ft. 9½ in., 10 st. 8½ lb.

JOHN WILE: Albion captain and centre-half, he joined them from Peterborough for £30,000 in December 1970. Originally with Sunderland, he was ever-present for Albion last term. Born Sherburn. 6 ft. 1 in., 11 st. 12½ lb.

ALISTAIR ROBERTSON: Promising 19-year-old who broke a leg shortly after making his debut two years ago. After regaining fitness he won back senior place following the departure of John Kaye to Hull. Born Glasgow. 5 ft. 11 in., 11 st. 7 lb.

COLIN SUGGETT: Cost Albion their record fee of £100,000 when signed from Sunderland in June 1969. Former England Schoolboy and Youth cap, now operating in midfield. Born Washington, Co. Durham. 5 ft. 7½ in., 10 st. 12 lb.

TONY BROWN: Albion's leading marksman for the last two seasons. An England International (one cap), he signed professional in October 1963 and had scored 128 goals in 295 League appearances up to the start of this season. Born Oldham. 5 ft. 7 in., 11 st. 4 lb.

BOBBY GOULD: Joined Albion from Wolves in Sept. 1971 for £60,000. Previously with Arsenal and Coventry, he was the club's second highest scorer with 12 goals in 31 League games last season. Born Coventry. 5 ft. 10 in., 11 st. 5 lb.

ALISTAIR BROWN: Signed from Leicester for £55,000 last March and scored the winner on his Albion debut against Crystal Palace. Ever-present since his transfer. Born Edinburgh. 6 ft., 12 st.

ASA HARTFORD: Scottish International midfield player with six full and two Under-23 caps. Joined Albion as a junior and turned pro. in October 1967. Born Glasgow. 5 ft. 5½ in., 10 st. 11 lb.

LYNDON HUGHES: Local-born former England Schoolboy and Youth cap, he turned professional in January 1968. A defender with over 50 First Division appearances to his credit. Born Smethwick. 5 ft. 11 in., 11 st. 5 lb.



Club address:
The
Hawthorns,
West
Bromwich.

OFFICIALS

Chairman: MR. JIM GAUNT.
Secretary: MR. ALAN EVERISS, J.P.
Manager: MR. DON HOWE.
Assistant-Manager/Physiotherapist:
MR. GEORGE WRIGHT.
Chief Coach: MR. BRIAN WHITEHOUSE.
Captain: JOHN WILE.

HONOURS

Football League Champions 1920.
Second Division Champions 1902, 1911,
F.A. Cup Winners 1888, 1892, 1931, 1954,
1968.
Football League Cup Winners 1966.