

OUR VISITORS TODAY

ASTON VILLA come to Stamford Bridge seeking their first victory in ten away fixtures, their only points in that time having come from two draws. Their heaviest defeat was at Liverpool, where they went down 2-5 in October.

Ten days ago they were surprisingly knocked out of the F.A. Cup, losing 1-2 at Aldershot after the Fourth Division side had forced a goalless draw at Villa Park. That Cup set-back led to changes last Saturday, and the players drafted into the side played their parts well in a 3-1 victory over Blackpool.

Captain Dropped

Vic Crowe, captain and Welsh international right-half, and the right-wing pair of Jim MacEwan and Tommy Ewing were omitted, their places going to Dave Pountney, "Cammie" Fraser and Phil Woosnam. For Fraser, normally a full-back, it was a new role at outside-right, while Woosnam celebrated his recall after two months' absence, by scoring two goals.

TODAY'S REFEREE

MR. LEO CALLAGHAN, 39-year-old social worker from Merthyr Tydfil, this afternoon pays his second visit of the season to Stamford Bridge—he was in charge of the match against Manchester United in October—and next Saturday he will complete his "hat-trick," having been appointed by the F.A. to referee our fourth round Cup-tie against Huddersfield Town.

Mr. Callaghan began his career in the Merthyr & District League, and progressed via the Welsh Amateur League, the Welsh League and the Football Combination before reaching the Football League list, on which he is now in his eleventh season.

As one of the most experienced among present-day referees, he has officiated in many Internationals. Away from business and football, he is greatly interested in youth club work.

Nigel Sims and Geoff Sidebottom, two ex-Wolves men, have both appeared in Villa's goal this season, with the former the most regular choice as he has missed only two games. Sims took over the captaincy last weekend.

One of the most promising youngsters on the Villa playing staff is right-back Mick Wright, who made his debut at Blackpool on September 7, when Villa gained a 4-0 victory. Wright, who took over from Scottish Under-23 international "Cammie" Fraser, celebrated his 17th birthday a fortnight later, and was then signed as a professional. A native of Ellesmere Port (Cheshire), which was the birthplace of Villa manager Joe Mercer (and Stan Cullis) Wright already seems established as a first-team player.

The only member of Villa's senior side who played in every game last season was left-back Charlie Aitken, a native of Edinburgh and a Scottish Under-23 international, who has been a professional at Villa Park since August 1959.

David Pountney, whom Villa signed from Shrewsbury Town at a substantial fee in October, has since played in both wing-half positions and at inside-left. Born at Baschurch (Shropshire), he joined Shrewsbury's staff in 1957 and became a regular member of their senior side.

Under-23 Caps

Former England Schoolboy and Youth international, John Sleeuwenhoek was born at Wednesfield (Staffs) and after a spell on the ground staff signed professional in February 1961, making his League debut two months later. He has subsequently obtained England Under-23 honours and developed into a first-class centre-half.

Also capped by England at Under-23 level, Alan Deakin has made most of his appearances for Villa at left-half, though he has also figured in the other wing-half position and at inside-left this winter. A native of Birmingham, he has been a professional since 1959.

John ("Cammie") Fraser hails from Blackford in Perthshire, and gained