



Boys in blue

David Webb

THERE is no finer or more inspiring sight to Chelsea eyes than David Webb roaring out of defence at one end to reinforce attack at the other.

Eight goals last season are evidence of his all-round purpose. Voted Chelsea's "Player of the Year", he was also our only ever-present player in 1968-69 (54 games) . . . which made his absence through injury from this season's opening matches felt all the more.

Born Stratford on April 9, 1946. Previous clubs: Orient and Southampton, from whom he joined us in February 1968. 5 ft. 11½ in., 12 st. 12 lb.

Q&A

Q. First, Ron, the "64,000" question Chelsea fans have been asking for 64 years—and I ask it aware of the opening results: Is this the season of really high hopes at Stamford Bridge?

A. In one or other of our three competitions, I really believe we can do something big this time. We've had disappointments these last few years, when we have promised so much, had good opportunities to win honours and not taken them.

Q. Why not—what's been missing, as you see it?

A. More than anything, I'd put it down to lack of concentration at crucial stages of a match. I'll give two examples from last season. At Newcastle in the League, we led 2-0 at half-time, everyone got too confident . . . we lost 3-2. In the sixth round of the F.A. Cup at home to West Brom, we got a goal in ten minutes – the sort of start you dream about when Wembley is so close. We all know what happened. Instead of doing things the simple way, one or two tried to do "a little bit more". It only needs one cog to slip and you've had it. Put it this way: If we'd been losing 1-0 up at West Bromwich that day after ten minutes, I don't think we'd have been allowed to get back in the game.

Q. So what is being done about it this season?

A. I don't think anyone can deny that we have the talent and ability to win a top

prize. As I've said, more than anything else it's the degree of concentration, determination to give nothing away, that is the difference between us and the Leeds Uniteds and Liverpools. It is something we have got to overcome if we are to do ourselves justice. I think some of the lads have grown up more this year, and are more ready to accept responsibility. As captain, I'm aware that Chelsea owe their supporters a big success (they pay our wages, and without the fans there would be no Chelsea). I'm also aware that in modern football at top level a team has got to have 100 per cent application and professionalism from every member through every match. Without it, you cannot expect to win honours today. Competition from other clubs is too great.

Q. One criticism last season was that Chelsea were "too cautious" . . . could and should have thrown more emphasis on attack. What do you say about that?

A. My answer is that we scored 73 goals in the First Division, and only Everton, with 77, got more. We are not defensive to the extent of some teams – otherwise we couldn't have had scores such as four at Manchester United, Q.P.R. and Leicester, threes at Ipswich and West Brom. Our away record spoke for itself. In Tommy Docherty's time we played with a sweeper home and away, remember. At home last season we were more ambitious, but a lot of sides came to Chelsea playing "tight" . . . and this is all

PROGRAMME PIX

I AM enquiring about the photographs published in your club programme. Could you tell me whether it is possible to purchase prints of these photos?

If so, could you please send me details of where and how I can get them and the cost?

Thank you very much.

D. K. Harmer.

27 Cypress Road,
Frindsbury,
Strood, Kent.

● Pictures used in the programme come from many different sources. If the reader seeks a particular print, the Editor will pass any written request to the agency or newspaper which supplied the photograph.

ON THE SPOT

LAST season, in the match against Burnley, Peter Osgood was not playing and Bobby Tambling had to go off. I wondered what would happen if Chelsea were awarded a penalty. Who would take it?

Surely we must have another spot-kicker, since otherwise a player unaccustomed to the job would have to be nominated quickly. My guess for the emergency penalty-taker would be David Webb.

A. W. Orr.

35 Garth Close,
Morden, Surrey.

● Peter Osgood is our appointed penalty-taker again this season. In practice David Webb cracks a good one, too! So does Peter Bonetti, remembering his two goals from the spot in Bobby Tambling's Testimonial last April.

AWAY BOOKINGS

LAST year you put in the programme a guide to seat bookings in the First Division. Please do this again in an early issue of the coming season, as this information is most useful.

W. Bryant.

18 Denholme Road,
London, W.9.

● Hope you saw the programme on Saturday.

Supporters' Club Notes

Membership 1969-70

This is available at a fee of 10/- for adults and 5/- for juniors (under 14 on the day of joining). Application should be made in writing to the Membership Officer, M. J. Marlow Esq., Ringford Road, Wandsworth S.W.18. Please state full name and address. If a junior, give date of birth (failure to do so will mean your application will be returned).

All applications must be accompanied by the necessary postal order and a stamped self-addressed envelope, for the return of membership card. Your Membership fee must be paid by crossed postal order/cheque/money order and be made payable to the Chelsea SUPPORTERS' Club, (NOT, repeat NOT Chelsea FOOTBALL Club). Please assist by NOT sending cash through the post.

Our General Secretary is, as towards the end of last season, W. Ridley, Esq, 49, Stainer Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

SOUND EQUIPMENT

The sound equipment at Stamford Bridge was installed by Magneta (BVC) Limited, Ackmar Works, Ackmar Rd., London, S.W.6

PRE-MATCH SPIN

IN starting 1969-70 we would like to thank all correspondents for their support in making Pre-match Spin such a success on match-days at Stamford Bridge again last season. This is our fifth season, and we hope to break all records (if you'll excuse the pun) with the number of requests we receive this season.

Undoubtedly there will be new faces here tonight not yet acquainted with Pre-match Spin, who will be interested in writing for a request.

A series which interested many supporters last season was our interview spot, in which Chelsea players were asked about their tastes in music generally, whether it be pop, light, classical, etc. We shall continue the series this season and include a player's choice on each show.

The address to write for record requests is:—

Pete & Dave, Pre-match Spin, Chelsea F.C., Stamford Bridge Grounds, Fulham Road, London, S.W.6.

Pete Owen & Dave Scott.