

MANAGER BANKS

ON TEAM SPIRIT

By Chiltern

SIGNING of Billy Stark from Colchester United yesterday made no difference to the plans of the Town manager, George Martin, to field an unchanged team for this afternoon's home match with Newport County.

In fact, he had already decided that on Thursday after hearing reports of the improvement that the much altered team had shown against Brighton in the League Cup.

"We have found bite, enthusiasm and team spirit and I will not interfere with that," he told me.

This means that not only will some players continue to occupy unorthodox positions, but that two — 17-year-old Alan Slough and 19-year-old Alan Rivers — will be mak-

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Tinsley; Thomson, Jardine; Edwards, Rivers, Moore; Slough, Gibson, Read, Reid, Harber. Substitute: McKechnie.

NEWPORT COUNTY: Weare; Frowen, Bird; Cooke, Rathbone, Rowlands; Morgan, Pugh, Reynolds, Hill, Jones.

ing their first appearances in a league match.

In addition, Dick Edwards, the full-back who is retained at right-half, has only one previous league outing behind him and that was in the final of last season.

RAPID PROMOTION FOR RIVERS

Arrival of Rivers on the league scene is like something out of the blue. Only recently he was regarded as third-choice centre-half and there was even some talk about persevering with him as a goalkeeper.

However, on Wednesday when a late change was necessary because Matt Woods was found not to be 100 per cent fit, Rivers was given preference over Graham Caleb, who has not been in good form so far.

After a tentative start, Rivers settled down to give a solid exhibition which sur-

and he could well be a danger if he receives a liberal supply of through passes on the ground.

A DOUBLE SPEARHEAD

I hope that Jimmy Gibson, with his strength and forcefulness, will be used as a double spearhead. He showed in the second half against Brighton that he can be dangerous in this role.

Much will depend, of course, on the support they receive from behind and, in this respect I hope that John Reid will be able to achieve greater accuracy in distribution than has been the case recently.

On Wednesday, Reid slotted well into the scheme of things but was somewhat remiss with his passing — which was one reason why Billy Harber did not get into the game as much as he would have liked.

NO CHANGE IN NEWPORT TEAM

Like the Town, Newport forced a replay in the League Cup against a team from a higher division — in their case Southend United.

Obviously, there was a measure of satisfaction in this because they have announced an unchanged team for today, though there might have been a change had the former Arsenal and Cardiff City inside-forward Derek Tapscott been fit.

As it is, local-product David Pugh continues to deputise at inside-right. In fact six members of the team were recruited from local football and developed in the County's junior sides.

LITTLE MONEY TO SPARE

This is necessary, of course, because as is the case with most Fourth Division clubs, there is little money to spare at Somerton Park.

They did manage some close-season signings, and two of them, Malcolm Cooke, from Bradford, and David Jones, from Millwall, are in this afternoon's line-up.



Alan Slough . . . first League appearance

Only others with previous league experience are John Frowen, who was with Cardiff City and Bristol Rovers, Ken Morgan, formerly of Manchester United and Swansea Town, and Len Hill, who had a spell with Cardiff City.

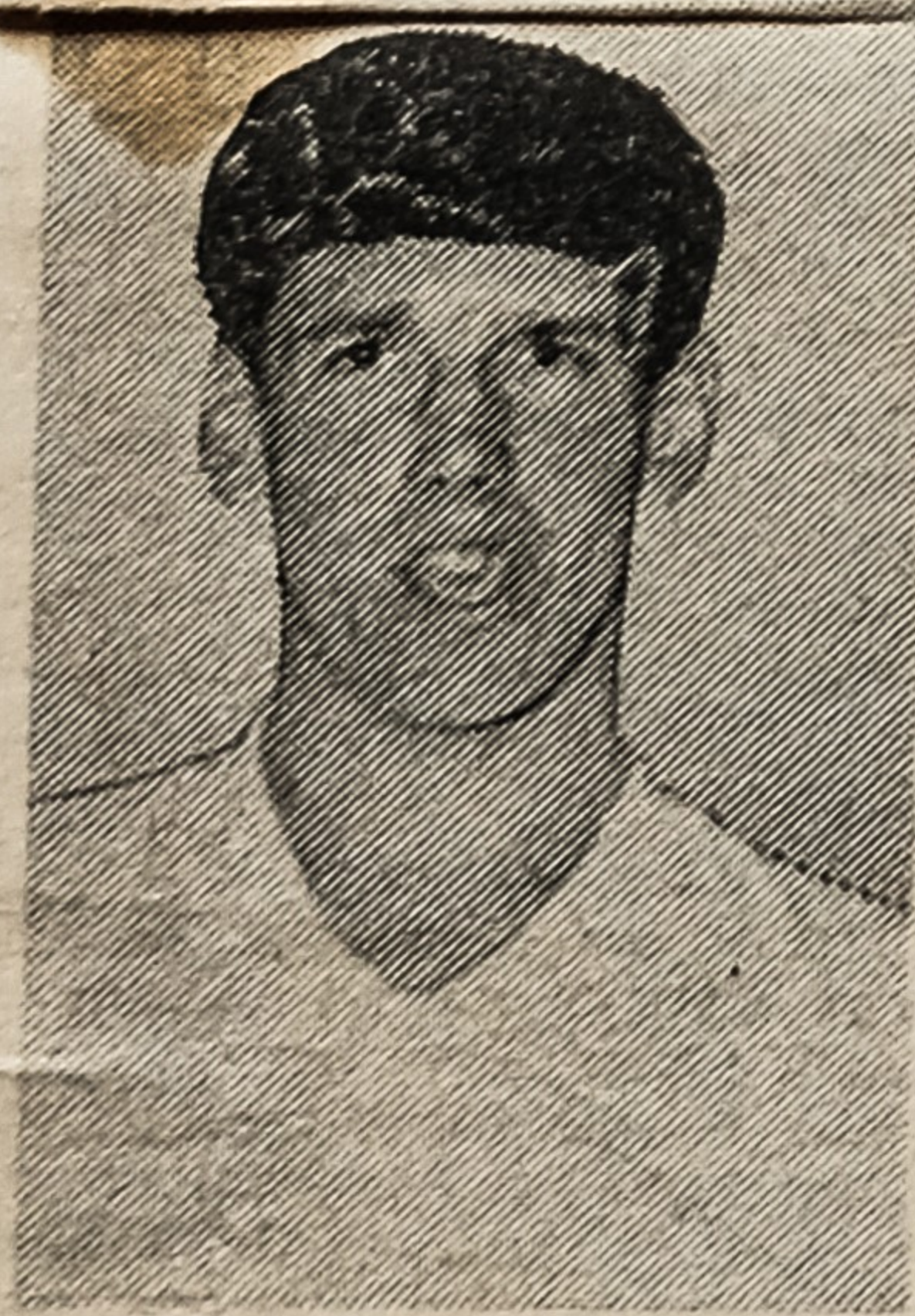
Newport's results so far have been a mixed bag because they won at Chesterfield, lost by the only goal at Torquay and drew at home with Rochdale.

SIX FORWARDS NAMED

Stark is among the six forwards from whom the Reserves attack at Charlton this afternoon will be chosen. Woods will be at centre-half.

Unorthodoxy also applies to this team because Howard Kettleborough, normally a forward, will be at left-back.

Team: Fiore; Caleb, Kettleborough; Brookes, Woods, Cheshire; forwards from R. Patmore, Fry, Stark, Riddick, Rioch, Long.



Alan Rivers . . . again at centre-half

prised most people and there was never much doubt that he would receive another chance even though Woods, the club captain, is now fit again.

SHOWED FIGHTING QUALITIES

A full-back, Slough did not look completely at home at outside-right on Wednesday, but he showed fighting qualities, which is what the manager is looking for, and he has undoubted football ability to ally to them.

Other controversial choice, of course, was that of Tony