

Sports News

Manager hopes his dream will come true

A DREAM can come true for Town manager Terry Westley on Sunday, when he leads Luton Town into action at Ipswich. His only concern is that he does not want to suffer another nightmare defeat.

"When I was a young coach at Portman Road I used to dream about what it would be like to be a manager and take a team to Ipswich," he said.

"For me, for Mick McGiven and for Bonitcho Guentchev and Gavin Johnson it will be a very special game on Sunday because of our Ipswich connections."

McGiven is a former Ipswich manager, and Westley was running Ipswich's school of excellence for youngsters before David Pleat brought him to Luton to be youth coach four years ago.

Westley recalled: "At times I used to think I was

making very slow progress at Ipswich. I used to dream that perhaps one day I would go back as a manager. Oh yes, Sunday will be a special day for me. And I want to be a winner at Portman Road."

The Town might meet one of their former players: Andy Peterson is on loan at Portman Road from Charlton, who bought him from the Town in the summer of 1994. The tribunal price was £35,000 plus £50,000 when he made his 50th appearance. In the event Peterson has played only nine games for Charlton, and at Ipswich he has been deputising for Craig Forrest, who was injured playing against Charlton a month ago.

But news is that Forrest may be fit to return on Sunday.

Striker search ends in Norway

EXCLUSIVE
BY BRIAN
SWAIN

WEEKS of frustration ended for Terry Westley yesterday when he finally landed a striker who could put the goal punch back into Luton Town.

Vidar Riseth, 23, arrives from Norway on Monday to complete a £100,000 transfer, and could make his debut at Kenilworth Road in the following Sunday's televised match against Charlton.

His desire to play in England enabled the Town to get their man, ahead of German champions Borussia Dortmund, who also wanted him.

Riseth spent a few days at Luton last week, looking around the club and the local area, and scored three goals in a private practice match arranged so that Westley could see him in live action.

Standing over 6ft tall, Riseth is

just ending the season with

Kongsvinger, and has netted 12 times in 25 games. He is suspended from his club's final game on Sunday, but is staying on to see if they get the point they need to avoid relegation.

He has had two years with Kongsvinger, after a spell with Norwegian champions Rosenborg, the club who embarrassed Ray Harford and Blackburn Rovers a couple of weeks ago.

Said Westley: "We were impressed with him when he came over last week.

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ONE UP: Richard Harvey leaves Stuart Naylor helpless to give Luton Town an early lead against West Brom at Kenilworth Road. (Below) Richard Harvey celebrates the seventh goal of his career by hiding the ball under his shirt. Dwight Marshall, Ceri Hughes and Jamie Woodford share the pleasure of the occasion



Pressure on the boss as he heads home

PRESSURE on manager Terry Westley and his Luton Town team to do well at his old club Ipswich on Sunday was raised by the fourth home defeat of the season, before Monday's announcement about the possible sale of the club.

If they cannot win at Portman Road on Sunday, the Town are in danger of being well adrift at the bottom of the First Division.

The latest reverse was not down

LUTON TOWN 1
WEST BROM 2

to poor football - the Town played very well at times, had West Brom on the run for most of the first hour, then lost in the last 16 minutes to two sucker punches after they had failed to deliver a knock-out from a penalty.

For once there was sympathy and some degree of appreciation from the crowd rather than more calls for Westley to be booted out.

Town man of the match Gary Waddock summed it up perfectly, saying it was all very well to play well, but he would settle for playing badly if it brought three points.

INSIDE: Skipper will not be put on the spot - Oakes and Vilstrup fit - David Greene is staying - Preece peace

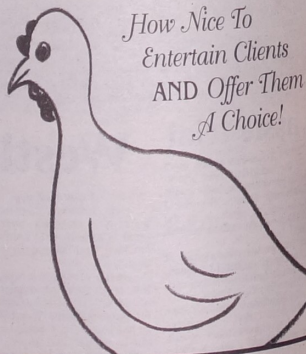


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