

Sport 3

Big match facts

TOWN: Fever, Peake (James HT), Davis, Marvin Johnson, Alexander, Hughes, Waddock, Harvey, Oldfield, Woodford, Marshall, Unused subs Guentchev and McLaren.

WEST BROM: Naylor, Burgess, Mardon, Raven, Agnew (Smith 65 mins), Ashcroft, Coldicott, Cunningham, Donovan, Gilbert (Hunt 55 mins), Taylor. Unused goalkeeper sub Pease.

GOALS: 1-0, Richard Harvey left-footer after Albion allowed Steve Davis's long ball to get through the middle, 1-1 74 mins: Lee Ashcroft header from right wing cross by Kevin Donovan; 1-2, 83 mins: Andy Hunt scrambled effort from centre by Donovan.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town four saved, including a penalty by Steve Davis which was pushed onto a post by Stuart Naylor, and four wide. Albion two saved, one of which they claimed was over the line after it hit a post and was grabbed by Ian Fever, and three wide. Corners: 7-3 to West Brom.

REFEREE: Graham Barber, Warwick. His slight bookings were no reflection of the way the game was played, and he also managed to make each half last 50 minutes. Referring by the letter of the law is not enough when the law of commonsense is not applied as well.

BOOKED: For fouls - Town's Richard Harvey, Ian Fever and Graham Alexander and West Brom's Cunningham, Taylor and Mardon. For dissent: Town skipper Davis and Albion's Raven.

ATTENDANCE: 8,042, highest of the season so far.

ENTERTAINMENT: Excellent until everything went wrong in the last 20 minutes: despite the result and the league table position, the Town played a lot of good football, and the team could not be faulted for effort, but lack of the knock-out blow was crucial.

Town's season at a glance....

DATE... OPPONENTS... RESULT... SCORERS... ATTENDANCE... LEAGUE POSITION

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIV 1
August 1995

13 Norwich	(H)	1-3 (Guentchev, pen)	7,348	-
14 Southend	(A)	1-0 (Harvey)	4,820	-
26 Leicester	(H)	1-1 (Hughes)	7,612	16
29 Grimsby	(A)	0-0	4,289	10

September

2 Derby	(H)	1-2 (Marshall)	6,427	17
9 Reading	(A)	1-3 (Marshall)	8,550	20
13 Millwall	(A)	0-1	7,076	22
16 Sunderland	(H)	2-2	6,985	23
23 Wolves	(A)	0-0	23,469	24
30 Portsmouth	(H)	3-1 (Marshall, Davis, Guentchev, pen)	7,795	23

October

7 Tranmere	(A)	0-1	6,680	24
14 West Brom	(H)	1-2	8,042	24

COCA-COLA CUP (First Round)
August 1995

15 Bournemouth	(H)	1-1 (Marshall)	2,728	-
22 Bournemouth	(A)	1-2 (pen) (M. Johnson)	4,844	-

BOURNEMOUTH WIN 3-2 ON AGGREGATE.

ANGLO ITALIAN CUP
September 5 1995

Perugia	(H)	1-4 (Guentchev, pen) 2,352	-	-
Genoa	(A)	0-4	3,759	-

Endsleigh League soccer

Inner doubts leave Town on the rocks

From back page

"When you are losing it becomes much a habit as winning, but harder to change," he added.

Despite being bottom of the First Division, the players believe in themselves, and there were good reasons at Kenilworth Road on Saturday to think a revival is possible.

But not if the few scoring chances being created are wasted. The Town looked more menacing than West Brom in their general play until the late stages, but were unable to build on an early goal, and the penalty miss by Steve Davis was as good as giving one to the opposition.

That would have regained the lead, but instead West Brom punished the spot kick failure with a late winner to boost themselves into third place in the table.

With Johnny Vilstrup, Scott Oakes and John Taylor missing through injuries, the Town's reshuffled pack often looked a good unit.

I made Richard Harvey and goalkeeper Ian Fever the closest contenders to Waddock for the Town man of the year.

AERIAL BATTLE: Steve Davis stretches in vain at the back post as a corner puts West Brom under first-half pressure.



● SPOT OF BOTHER: Steve Davis's penalty is saved by Stuart Naylor.



Report by Brian Swain
Pictures by Gareth Owen

match honours, and the introduction of Jamie Woodford for his second full league game, added a little more determi-

nation than we had seen from Bontcho Guentchev.

Manager Westley was left to point out the handful of crucial turning points that cost him the win he and his team so desperately wanted.

West Brom's defence stood and watched when Harvey left-footed the Town into a 19th-minute lead from a through ball by Steve Davis.

The Town got well on top but could not add the goal that might have killed off a bedraggled visiting outfit.

Albion were not allowed a single shot on target in the first half, but Stuart Naylor tipped over a thundering volley by the improving Graham Alexander,

and Dwight Marshall shot wide from an opening made by Woodford's surge.

Julian James replaced Trevor Peake at the interval after the veteran had been injured in a collision with Feuer, but for the first ten minutes of the second half the pattern was the same.

A brilliant breakaway from a West Brom corner should have made it 2-0, but after Ceri Hughes and Waddock passed quickly and accurately to send in David Oldfield, the midfielder on the wing and Naylor made a good save at his feet.

Albion manager Alan Buckley had given his men a rollicking at half-time, and ten minutes later, still unhappy with the way they were second best, he was on Andy Hunt to replace Dave Gilbert.

And Hunt had a storming game. He was angry at being dropped, determined to prove he should have been picked, and transformed the proceedings.

Albion started to make better use of the flanks, their passing improved 10

per cent, and the loss of defender Paul Agnew with a knee injury made little difference to their resurgence.

Hunt sent Kevin Donovan heading Harvey to deliver a perfect cross from which Lee Ashcroft beat the equaliser.

West Brom claimed that was belated justice: two minutes earlier Stacey Coldicott's shot from Hunt's pass hit the post and was saved by Feuer. "It was a goal," said Coldicott later. "I don't know whether it crossed the line or not," said the keeper. "The linesman said he couldn't see, but it was certainly not a yard over, as some were saying."

Even after conceding the equaliser, the Town showed the capability of restoring their supremacy.

Referee Graham Barber had a poor game, with over-use of the yellow cards, but even Albion

agreed he was right to give a penalty when Paul Mardon brought down Marshall on a run for goal.

Guentchev, with a 100 per cent record from the spot, watched from the dug-out as Davis took the kick, and Naylor dived to his right to save a side-footed effort that was looking for placing rather than power.

West Brom took heart from that, while the Town's inner doubts and worries surfaced again, and seven minutes from time Hunt nicked the winner, cashing in on a lucky bounce and deflection after a cross by Donovan.

There was no way back after that and whatever slight pleasure we might take from some of the football the Town played, today's league table makes it seem very slight indeed.

Julian James collected the only Town booking - three to the Italians might have been half a dozen or more - and Town fans enjoyed seeing the ref almost book Doc Berry, who was sitting on a ten-man bench.

James was cut when an Italian player's ring made contact with his face. A linesman saw it, and did nothing, which had Westley on his feet, pointing an accusing finger at the linesman.

Westley was wearing his spikes at the time. The linesman complained to the ref, who went to the bench and threatened the bespectacled club doctor with a yellow card.

Westley appeared for the second half without specs, and with a different tone on his training gear.

In the Wests without Ian Fever, Ceri Hughes, Trevor Peake, Gary Waddock and Dwight Marshall, and the luckless deputies.

Westley was getting over his operation.

"The price is good - it's more than the player would fetch if he moved without Norway, but over here I have been asked ridiculous amounts for players."

In the last week Westley has rejected the chance to buy 28-year-old Keith Scott for £300,000 from Keith Scott, a graduate of the world renowned Australian Institute of Sport.

Last year he was vice-captain of the Australian under-17 squad, which brought him to the attention of coach Peter Swain, a Town fanatic now working in Perth. He maintains links with Taylor, through his father and his Sports Editor cousin, and when Carlone's parents spoke of giving him a chance to make the grade in England, Town was the obvious destination.

He's a quick and strong, but don't expect him to play in every game for the rest of the season. But Rieth leave. "He's a very good with we needed someone, particularly

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