

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE



Season 07-08 No5

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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

WE'RE now coming to the end of the year from hell.

A sacked manager who's now wanting to sue us for a reported £3million, relegation, player sales, an FA investigation into the club's finances, administration, a points deduction, falling attendances, no League One away wins... can it get any worse? (Maybe I shouldn't tempt fate!)

One thing's for sure, life's never dull at Luton Town.

Take the interested parties hoping to take control of our beloved club, for example.

Although the administrator is playing his cards very close to his chest, he has revealed that Big Fat Joe may well fancy a comeback.

What Kinnear has



After all the recent trials and tribulations, it's time for supporters to get behind the club. Let's pray that 2008 turns out to be a very Happy New Year

been up to since being relieved of his management duties by first us and then Forest, I'm not too sure. No doubt he's been spotted out scouting at Wolves reserves a few times.

The other name which surfaced this week via the Luton News was that of film actor/director Vincent Gallo, who has apparently been in touch with the

administration team.

If he takes over, how long before they turn the soap opera that is Luton Town into a big budget movie? It's true, though, the script is probably a bit too far fetched.

Anyway, have a very merry Christmas and let's hope 2008 is a hell of a lot better for us long-suffering Luton fans.

Bring on those men from Merseyside!



TEXT your verdict on today's game to 84070

(start your message with LDNEWS followed by a space and then add your view on the action)

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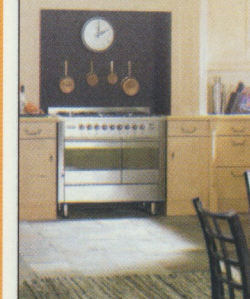


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The news at

Calm down, calm down, says gaffer

WITH all the euphoria surrounding Town's forthcoming FA Cup tie with the mighty Liverpool, manager Kevin Blackwell has been at pains to keep everybody's minds focused on vital league matches.

After successfully drumming home the message to the players, he's now trying to keep the fans' feet on the ground.

Our photographer caught him trying to "calm down, calm down" the supporters who are dreaming of a repeat of the epic third round game of two years ago against the Merseysiders.



CALMING INFLUENCE:
League form is the priority

On a roll with cutting costs

ADMINISTRATORS running the club have ordered a remarkable cost-cutting measure which shows just how deep in the financial mire Hatters are.

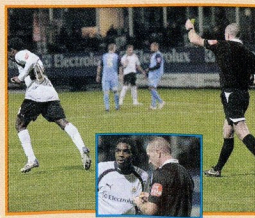
Instead of just discarding them after retrieving them from the pitch, stewards have been told to save bog rolls thrown by fans in celebration after Town score a goal.



As you can see from this dressing room photo, Hatters have stopped a few pennies from going down the pan after picking up a whole tub of rolls already.

Cards at Christmas time

DESPITE being a temporary signing, Anthony Grant has already proved to a very popular player this Christmas. It's no surprise, though, as the midfielder was handed 17 cards (15 yellow and two red designs) while at Wycombe last year. He received his first card at Luton within minutes of arriving here.



Ken

Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

Was Southend win a fix?



HATTERS managed to give supporters a boost by beating Southend in the first game after the shock announcement that we were back in administration.

But we've discovered evidence that perhaps the Shrimpers weren't trying all that hard – perhaps in sympathy for Town's plight. Take a look at these photos and you'll see:

>> A defender too scared to jump with Calvin.

>> Another player allowing Marc Wilson to run unchallenged.

>> The Shrimpers wanting to have a fun game of 'bundles' rather than play football.

>> Oh, and then there was a missed pen, too.

So were Southend deliberately all at sea? Who cares.

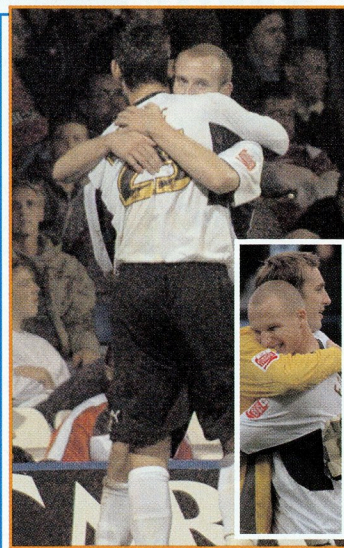


It's a warm reception to hugging idea

WE'VE been gripped by winter and quite frankly it's not exactly heart-warming stuff to find ourselves at the foot of the league table.

We thought it was the pressure of being in the relegation zone that was making the players nervous and giving them goosebumps, but it turns out it's all down to the freezing weather and those flimsy thin shirts they're forced to turn out in.

Hence the boys are under orders to try to keep each others' body temperatures up whenever there's a break in play.



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the Orange guide to... winning away



We don't care how much it's worth, we're going to park the team bus in front of Hatters' goal



Do a Kiwi-style haka to scare the home crowd and then a team huddle to build team spirit



We're going to send more players out on loan to rival clubs to feed us back vital information



Give the boss a run out in goal, play two goalkeepers and see if the ref notices, or play with a rush goalie



Try 'managing' the game, Adie Boothroyd style



Employ a hypnotist to get over the mental hurdle of failing away again



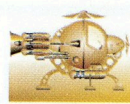
Wear our home kit for every away game and get Happy Harry to go to make it feel like a home match



Infiltrate the kitchens and slip something dodgy into the home team meals



Sign up a Disney favourite to play up front when the transfer window reopens. That means instead of conceding Mickey Mouse goals we might get a few in our opponents' net



Hop into a time machine and bring back all our best players



Nip down the shops and buy a job lot of lucky charms for the players to wear



Lock the home team in their dressing room or kidnap their star players

Tell the boys not to panic about not yet winning away in the league this season. Stats show home teams generally win 45% of games and 30% are draws. That means you're only likely to win one in four away. So we only need to win six of the next 13 trips to get an average away league record. Easy!



up for sale

THE administrators at Luton Town are pleased to offer for sale an historic old club, built in 1885 and currently housed in a charming stadium full of unique characteristics.

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>> An expensive playing



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>> A main stand with the original wood and metal panelling to obscure your view.

>> A retail outlet which could be a potential goldmine if properly organised.

>> Metal gate perimeter to keep out undesirables.

>> A rare old timepiece in the far corner of the ground.

>> Outside catering facilities

from which to serve Mars bars and cold burgers.

>> A car park with enough room for six cars and a coach.

>> Recently repainted walls for gents to pee up against.

>> A row of conservatories where you can view the action from behind shatterproof glass.

This club was recently sold for £4 but a property boom means you'll have to have at least £3million at your disposal before you'll be considered a suitable purchaser.

Be warned... this club is sold complete with thousands of supporters who'll stick their oar in and kick up a fuss if you take a step out of line.

Happy bidding!

What's on...

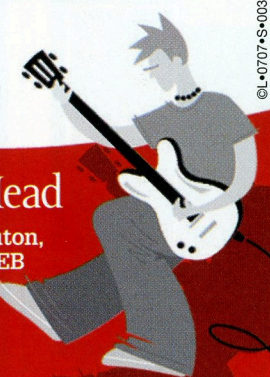
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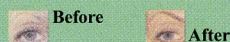
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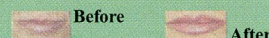
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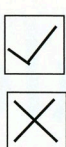
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check
it out



What to look out
for in today's game

The PA blasts out
ancient Xmas hits

Pitch is watered & it
starts to freeze up!

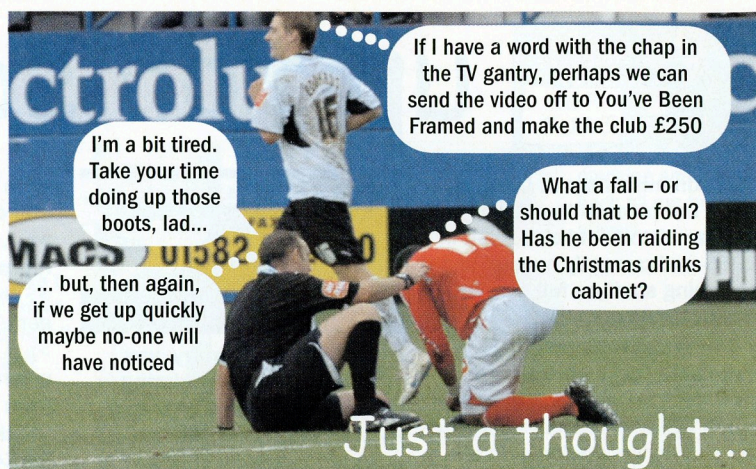
The players run out
in Santa hats

Boss plays a Xmas
tree formation

Away fans could've
come in a taxi

Anthony Grant
gets a booking

We're at home so
we're gonna win!



head to head... The orange 'experts' get their crystal balls out (ahem)

 <p>Tranmere (H) 2-0 win Bristol R (A): 2-1 win Port Vale (A): 1-1 draw Yeovil (H): 3-1 win Liverpool (H): 0-4 loss</p>	 <p>Tranmere (H) 1-0 win Bristol R (A): 1-1 draw Port Vale (A): 2-1 win Yeovil (H): 2-0 win Liverpool (H): 1-3 loss</p>
--	---

Correct result 1pt, exact score 2pts: Latest score - Steve 17 Andy 12

boys 'r' us



Billy Suggester with the lads' outlook on everything that's kicking off at Hatters

IF there's one Luton Town souvenir I don't want Santa to stuff inside my stocking this year, it's a 2007-08 calendar.

Let's face it, by the time the January transfer window has been slammed shut we'll be lucky if half the players featured are still at the club.

Who wants it rubbed in their faces six months down the line when I flip over to Mr July, that David Bell or David Edwards left us eons ago for a rival team?

Perhaps the club should offer us free inserts to update the calendar throughout the year, or maybe we should pass the pages on to the relevant club's fans when they purchase our stars?

Why don't we give the Luton Belles team a chance to strike a pose or even this fanzine's attractive young things? I bet they'd manage to sell a few more that way, eh lads?

And what's all this about the club shop being closed on Mondays in the run-up to Christmas when we're desperate for cash? Only at Luton!



Candice or David - you decide!



I SEE our mate Brendan the administrator has pleaded not guilty to those raft of FA charges against the club.

It's certainly no laughing matter as, after the points deduction we've already suffered, we face another penalty if found guilty.

But what did raise a giggle was the name of the man originally sounded out to defend Town against the charges. It was Graham Bean of Football Factors Ltd. So, before administration meant his services weren't required, our hopes rested on Mr Bean. You couldn't make it up.

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ARE you busy getting the bunting and flags out for your big FA Cup tie?

It's always good to see the smaller clubs reach the third round.

I'll never forget the last time you played Liverpool in the cup.

I'd just seen the glory Horns crash out to Bolton.

It was a football purist game as you can imagine, and big Sam annoyed us even more by throwing his reserve keeper on as



a sub - up front.

So it was with a heavy heart when I arrived back in town and headed into the pub to watch your live game against the Scousers.

As I opened the door a huge cheer

Nicholls had just put your boys 3-1 up when I arrived in the pub. But it all turned out fine in the end!

went up... sadly not for me, but for the fact Luton had gone 3-1 up.

I say huge cheer. Don't get carried away, it wasn't a big crowd... just one fat bloke with a loud voice.

Part of me wanted to turn round and go home but I decided to drown my sorrows.

And I'm so glad I did. 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5... and a halfway line goal to finish it off.

In the course of an hour I was smiling again.

So if I get back from the thrilling Watford v Palace tie and want a bit more football, I'll be sure to tune in again.

Yellow army.

If you have a message for Don, email orange@bedsnews.com

girl's world



so women and football don't mix? not so, says our Orange girlie Becky Gazeley

OH my gosh, Christmas is now only two sleeps away.

I am so excited. In fact, I was so excited that when jumping around a certain department store with one of my friends we happened to knock over the tree and break a few of the ornaments.

I would very much like to apologise!

But seriously, yay Christmas! And what completely cherry tops it is that we've got a game today and I have a really good feeling about this one. I can sense a hat-trick, so fingers crossed.

Well, what a year it has been. I barely have any lip gloss left after how much I've eaten through, due to nervousness.

I'm sure, like most of you,

I'm pleased to see the administrator is getting rid of dead wood within the club and Mitchell going was a blessing to us all. Nasty man.

On the pitch, I have to say I'm very excited to see loan signing Anthony Grant play.

I was impressed with his skill and determination. He reminded me a little bit of Nico (swoon!).

When a year ends it's often good to look back and take in what's been fabulous and what hasn't.

So without hesitation my friends and I have come up with LTFC Rear of the Year!

See the panel right and see if you agree with us!

Hope you all have an amazing Christmas.

Love Becky xx

REAR OF THE YEAR

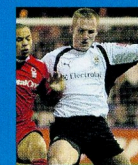
3rd Place:
Lewis Emanuel:
In my mate's Alice's words 'better than Jennifer Lopez's'!



2nd Place:
Matthew Spring: Fab in a suit Matt, but in shorts a little more work needed!



1st Place:
Jaroslav Fojut: Hot Stuff. Tight buns Jaroslav. Good work!



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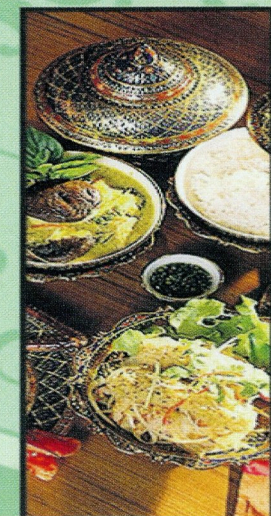
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what a beauty!

Luscious
Leanne

VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Leanne Fuller

Age: 28

Occupation: Telesales executive

Attached? Yes

Been a supporter since: 2002

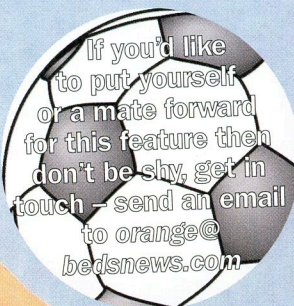
Best looking Hatter: Dean Brill

Most valuable player: David Bell

Player to flog: Richard Langley

Ideal night out: Clubbing in
London with my buddies

Favourite TV show: Hustle



Electrolux



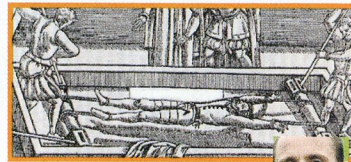
we wish you a merry



Videos of the 1980s featuring Mick Harford to help Calvin learn his trade



A one-way bus ticket back to Burnley, Norwich or wherever Paul McVeigh came from



A stretching rack to get short-arse centre-half Chris winning some aerial challenges



An answer machine to ensure the gaffer can dodge all those New Year calls from clubs trying to nick our best players



OK, so Furler was supposed to be on his last legs when he arrived here and was only going to play a cameo/coaching role. Now he's our main man and he'll barely be able to walk again when we've finished with his battered old body



Spring-heeled boots for our flat-footed young Irish right-back Keith Keane

christmas

the poor players have had to go without their wages so we decided to cheer them up by buying them some festive gifts



Sam Parkin better have a bumper supply of ankle supports for when he begins his comeback in the New Year. And as all the worry has clearly affected his hairline we'll be generous and throw in a wig, too



We bought some Teflon gloves for Marlon but then we realised he had some given to him last Christmas

Darren Currie is apparently the most tattooed player in the football league so we thought we'd save him some dosh and get him a DIY tattoo kit for the home



A gold pen for Belly to sign an extension to his contract - at least he won't go for peanuts, then



Who to give this rather expensive sat nav to was a toss up between Parkin and Unders as, by now, they probably both need help finding their way to our stadium. We opted for Unders as Sam's already got his ankle supports



Langers couldn't wait to open his gifts, which include a React-o-meter to improve his sluggish midfield play - he was gutted there was no new Alice band, though



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Place:- Bellini, 9 Chapel Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 2SE
Price:- ladies free before 12pm £5 after • Gents £5 allnight
Ladies:- Sexy as always Gents:- Smart casual
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bring me sunshine ... a light-hearted dip into the archives at Kenilworth Road

OF the current 92 Football League sides Luton have yet to meet only Morecambe and Accrington in a competitive game. Apart from those two they are still to play on the new grounds of Bolton, Arsenal, Man City, Chester, Middlesbrough, Darlington, Swansea, Doncaster, MK Dons and Shrewsbury. Swansea and Doncaster will, of course, be knocked off this season.

WITH only eight games to go at the end of the 1997-98 campaign the Hatters looked dead and buried in last but one place in Division Two. The offer of Tottenham loanee Rory Allen by ex-Luton manager David Pleat was initially sniffed at by the Hatters as the skilful forward was on his way back from a career-threatening ankle injury. It is a good job that the Town did make not it too obvious that they were looking this particular gift horse in the mouth as Allen went on to net six goals in eight games, helping the Hatters to avoid the drop and proving to be the best loan signing of all time.

LUTON'S Northern Irish winger Billy Bingham used to ask a teammate to deliberately barge him off the ball when in full flight during training. He could then practice his ability to roll over, bounce up and continue speeding down the wing in one movement!



AT the end of the 2006/07 campaign with Hatters long-since having been relegated, the club's website rather untactfully carried an article headlined "Unbelievable end of season promotion".

JINGLE bell, jingle bells, jingle all the way...

Oh what fun it is to see... Hatters fans hauling themselves out of bed early after the over-indulgences of Christmas Day just to see Town's players look like a bunch of overpaid (well OK, not paid) turkeys.

Of course, Kevin Blackwell and the boys will be determined to give the fans the perfect Christmas present of a rare win on the road.

Don't expect a nice playing surface for Town to play some silky smooth passing football on, because Rovers share their Memorial Ground home with

Bristol Rugby Club.

Still, at least all the

your travel guide to...Bristol



divots will give Blackers an excuse if it all goes pear-shaped.

The Pirates may be Rovers' official nickname but their fans prefer to be called the Gasheads - due to the fact that their old stadium used to stink (like their football at times) because it was sited near a gasometer.

Don't expect to be

able to park anywhere near the ground, though, as, like the Kenny, the stadium is plonked in the middle of a residential area.

So, all in all, not one of the top trips of the season.

But at least it gives us the chance to give Lennie 'I overachieved at Luton' a bit of stick if we win.

famous fans

Rod Hull
Died falling from his roof while trying to adjust his TV aerial so he could watch a football match. Obviously wasn't a Rovers game, as they're never on the box



Eddie Large
Yes, we know he's a famous Man City fan, but Eddie lives in Portishead and counts Rovers as his second team. Kept that one quiet. Not surprised!



directions

It's an exciting M1, M25, M4, M32 (exit J2). Just pray you don't get caught up in any holiday season traffic.



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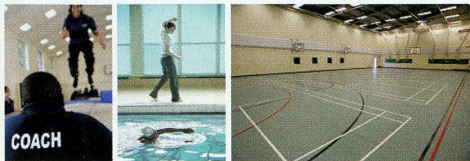
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who am I ?



use the clues to try to
identify Hatters players
past and present



**I signed for Hatters
from Aston Villa and
spent six years at
Kenilworth Road**



**I'm an African-born
player who came
through the Luton
youth ranks**



**I've played for 12
different teams**



**I played 187 games
but never scored a
goal**



**I scored five goals in
12 starts in three
years at the club**



**In all those switches
between clubs I've
only ever commanded
a fee once - £95,000**



**I was part of a
promotion-winning
Town team**



**Since leaving Hatters
six years ago I've
played for seven clubs**



**I was part of the team
that won the League
One title for Luton in
2004/05**



**I played in an very
entertaining match
with Liverpool where
we scored three goals**



**My current club
obviously rate me, as
they paid £200,000 for
my services.**



**I'm getting on a bit now
and suffer a bit of back
pain now and again**



**I'm a Scottish-born
goalkeeper**



**I played against Luton
this season and scored
the winner**



**I've played more than
500 professional
games, but I don't think
I'll play for Luton again**

ANSWERS: 1. Jake Findlay; 2. Tresor Kandol; 3. Marlon Beresford

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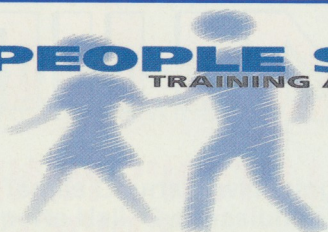
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watch the birdie

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I can't breathe, hurry up and take the photo

I've guffed but if I keep quiet I might get away with it

You'll never beat Des Linton... at farting. And we thought it was only our goalkeeping that stinks

One season with this shower then I can retire and make a mint with SKY

Just 'cos I kicked the odd ball out of the ground they now name a net after me. Bloomin' cheek

Hey, Jules, can you smell that?

This place is a dump compared to White Hart Lane. Still, at least the chairman says we'll have a nice new stadium in a couple of years

Help me Jase, old man Peake is trying to hold my hand

I'd love to laugh at Des but I'd better keep my head down and then show them what I can do if they're ever stupid enough to make me manager

1991



I've got my eye on you, sonny. If you can't be bothered I'll get Pleaty to give my kids a chance

I wish this snapper would get a move on so I can get on board and deal the first hand

Raddy's waving at the Luton News photographer and is taking a camera on our mini break. He better not be trying to catch us with our pants down on holiday so he can sell the snaps to the local rag

I'm so bored. When do the bookies open?

1991

I know Pleaty's team talks can be mundane but for God's sake stop yawning, Steve, and wake up. If you don't buck up your ideas you'll end up being kicked out after three months with the fans thinking you're a donkey with lead in your boots.

At last I get a break from this crummy English weather

I'm the only one with a book, so at least I look intelligent

Nice handbag John

Great, Clive's doing his Jimmy Hill again

I told Steiny not to wear his old school shirt and jumper, the daft gimp!

1981

What a mix-up!

Carol Vorderman brings you some Hatters-related anagrams

CLAMOR WINS
INLAND SNOWY
A BED OGLER FUNNILY
HANG RANT TONY
MARK TING
HA GLIB NIMBLY
HALL WAS UP

(answers below - don't look until you've tried very hard or Carol will get cross!)

1. Marc Wilson; 2. Danny Wilson; 3. Brendan Guilfoyle; 4. Anthony Grant; 5. Kim Grant; 6. Billy Bingham; 7. Paul Walsh

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(dedicated to 'Motormouth' Mike's memory)

talking points

- who said the following?



- 1 "It's that Thursday curse. I just want to get over a Thursday without something happening."
- 2 "I've been able to link up with Tony Thorpe again. He's done everything in the game."
- 3 "I played on artificial surfaces at QPR and Luton and those pitches were like concrete."
- 4 "I was kicked a few times and the referee wasn't giving anything, while every challenge we made seemed to result in a foul. I was getting very annoyed and frustrated so I decided to elbow one of their players. It was right in the corner and in fact I elbowed the corner flag into his face."

(answers below)

1. Kevin Blackwell after Hatters were hit with FA charges one week and was given his marching orders.
 2. Ray Wilkins ahead of England's Euro 2008 qualifier with Russia on a plastic pitch in Moscow; 4. Paul Peschisolidi flipped a corner flag into an El Salvador player's face during Canada's World Cup qualifier in 1997

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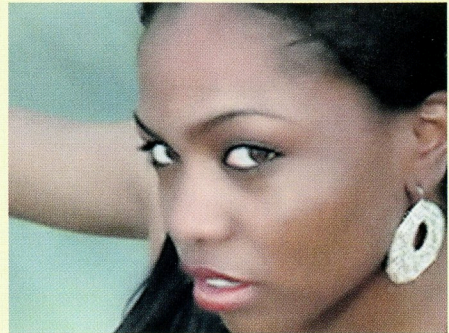
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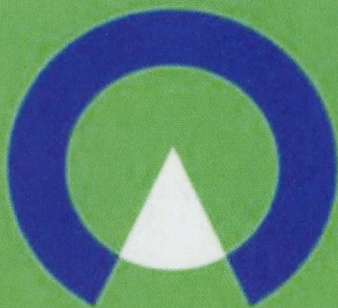
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