

Newcastle hope to renew Busby's partnership with 'Mac'

VIV ON LOAN—CROSSROADS TO FUTURE WITH PAST IN MIND?

VIV BUSBY headed North to Newcastle on Wednesday, knowing that by Christmas he could well have reached the crossroads of his career as a professional footballer.

The popular ex-Wycombe Wanderer is on a month's loan from Luton Town to the first division "Geordies". He is named in tomorrow's reserves Central League side by United—a debut which seems destined to lead to his quick first team introduction at St. James' Park.

For, there can be little doubt of manager Joe Harvey's intention, the eventual renewal of the twin-striking partnership Viv shared with Malcolm MacDonald last season.

WITHIN AN ACE

That duo went within an ace

of securing promotion for Luton, before MacDonald's £180,000 transfer to Newcastle in May.

Harvey tried then to ensure Busby's inclusion in the deal. But that, and a subsequent bid, was turned down as financially insufficient.

The figure now being widely forecast is set at around £50,000, should Harvey decide to sign

him after the trial period. It would be a bargain "buy" if it means injecting extra pep into a side currently floundering in fear of relegation.

MacDonald has accounted for the vast majority of Newcastle's League goals to date. Unquestionably he misses the support of his former colleague however. Likewise at Luton, where Viv, plagued by ankle trouble is yo-yoing in and out of the

League team.

The next few weeks rank as Viv's golden chance. But he remains realistic. Speaking from his home at St. Andrews Close, Tottenham on Monday evening, he told the Free Press:

CAUTION

"I'm looking forward to going up there. But it's only for a month. I'm not building my hopes on it."

Reflecting on his partnership in the second division with MacDonald, Viv added: "Whether we can hit it off in the first division or not, I just don't know."

He also pointed out a possible snag in the whole "loan" idea. For, if Newcastle hit a patch of good form, it means Harvey might not be given the opportunity to play him alongside MacDonald in that time. "If I don't get the chance with Malcolm, nothing has been gained", he said.

Whatever happens though, the situation is unusual. Normally "loans" mean a drop in grade for the player concerned.

For Viv, it constitutes a giant stride to the top, if all goes well—and nothing lost, if it doesn't!

M.W.

Viv is toast of 'Geordie-land'

WYCOMBE lad, Viv Busby is the toast of "Geordie-land" after scoring his second goal in two games for the men of Newcastle on Saturday.

It clinched Newcastle's second successive win since Busby's "loan" from Luton began. Last week he headed their first goal in the 3-0 defeat of West Brom at the Hawthorns. On Saturday he travelled back South to supply the decisive touch in the 1-0 away win at West Ham.

Busby therefore is yet to face his home crowd at St. James' Park. But, after Saturday, it was a widespread feeling that Magpie's manager, Joe Harvey would be signing him up for First Division soccer even before his month's trial period is complete.

It was not such a good after-

noon for local amateurs however. Marlow went down at Grosvenor Vale, losing 2-1 in extra time after a goalless 90 minutes in their Athenian League Cup second round tie with Ruislip Manor. Their goal was a Willis penalty.

Also saying farewell to their Cup aspirations were Chalfont St. Peter. Their 1-0 replay defeat at the Playing Fields means Windsor and Eton go to Wokingham in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup quarter finals.

The big Hellenic League Cup 'derby' at Burnham ended in the home team's favour as Chris Palethorpe's Amersham Town went crashing out, 2-0.

Princes Risborough won 4-0 at A.C. Delco in the League. Ernest Turners beat Hazells 3-1, while Stokenchurch went down at home 0-2 to Maidenhead Social.