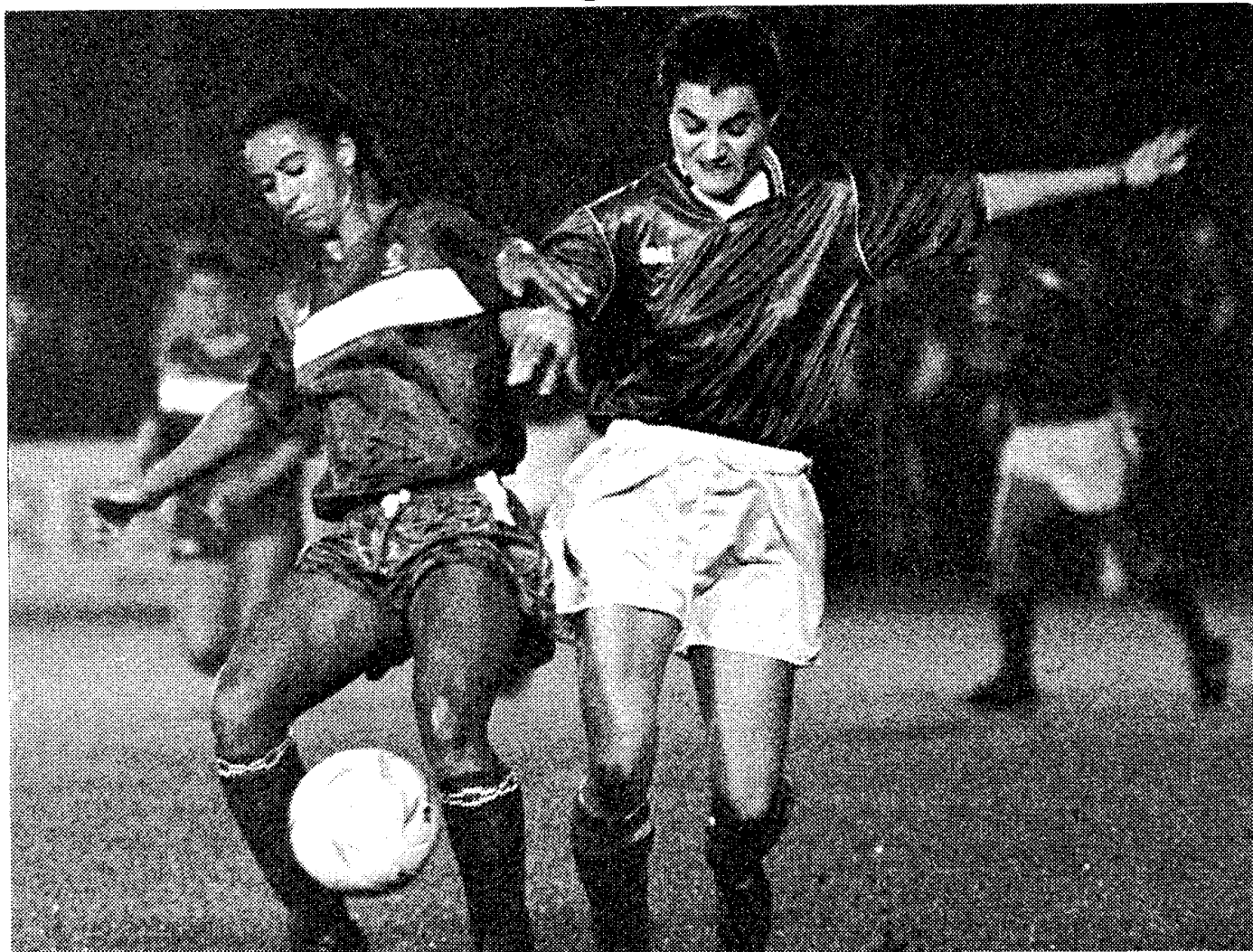


Draw for England's women



■ Action from Wednesday's women's international between England and Italy at Loakes Park.

THERE were raised eyebrows at Loakes Park on Wednesday when the football faithful were treated to an intriguing international.

For this friendly fixture was part of the Women's FA's 20th anniversary celebrations.

The skilful sides didn't disappoint an expectant 1,014 crowd in what proved to be a highly competitive 1-1 draw.

A physically intimidating but also skilful Italian professional side dominated the first 15 minutes and it was no surprise when they took the lead after 11 minutes when Fredericia D'Astolfo drilled home a penalty kick.

England's part-timers, however, refused to be overawed and they equalised on 44 minutes when Hope Powell was brought down inside the penalty area and Kerry Davis made

no mistake with the resultant spot kick.

A minute into the second half England understudy keeper, Tracey Davidson, was replaced by substitute Teresa Wiseman and it was a notably more improved display by the entire team.

England fashioned several clear cut chances but couldn't convert them.