

Cobblers is their influential captain Steve Brown.

Northampton, heavily in debt and unable to sign players themselves would find it difficult to resist a tempting financial offer for Brown.

■ Things don't get any easier for Northampton Town. Rooted to the foot of the Third Division and staring the trapdoor to the Vauxhall Conference full in the face the vultures are now descending on the County Ground.

The target for the clubs dangling their cheque books in front of the cash strapped

Premiership Manchester City have been linked, although stronger interest has come from First Division pair Oxford and Peterborough and Third Division rivals Preston (yes, them again) and Lincoln City.

Gorman sees hope

BOTH these teams may yet have cause to be thankful for a point when the battle for Premiership survival reaches its climax next May.

Beggars, they say, cannot be choosers and a draw, however drab and dreary it might have been, is still better than a defeat.

"I was a bit disappointed that we didn't win but at least we showed we are not an easy touch any more," Swindon manager John Gorman claimed afterwards.

United, of course, are old hands at the survival game. Their manager, Dave Bassett, has engineered more escapes than Harry Houdini. His teams play football

Swindon Town.....	0
Sheffield U.....	0

Frank Clough

without frills and if that means minimum entertainment for home fans, well that is their problem, not his.

They certainly made no new friends yesterday, and they did not make many chances either. Dane Whitehouse might have done better with a sliding half-chance in the 22nd minute, Carl Bradshaw then shot over the bar and missed another opportunity.

Swindon, determined to

keep playing football, might have won without looking impressive.

Their chances of staying up may rest on the shoulders of striker Keith Scott. He cost £300,000 from Wycombe and with any luck at all he could have added two more goals to the two he has already scored for the club. Swindon, however, must wait for his partnership with Andy Mutch to blossom.

Mutch should have scored three minutes into the second half but shot straight at goalkeeper Alan Kelly and then, in the dying moments, Kelly made another fine save from Scott.