

To be beaten four-one is a total embarrassment admits United boss

HUMILIATION

I HAVE never been so humiliated in all my years as a football club manager said crestfallen Colchester United boss Steve Wignall.

by **FRANCIS PONDER**

"To get beaten one-nil against non-league opposition is just about acceptable, but to be beaten four-one is total embarrassment," confessed the U's chief.

Wignall was picking up the pieces today of one of the worst FA Cup disasters in the U's Football League history after his gutless Second Division squad were on the wrong end of a shock 4-1 first round hammering at the hands of tiny Northumberland part-time minnows Bedlington Terriers.

"No excuses," he said "This is my biggest embarrassment since I became a manager and this defeat could be the biggest embarrassment for my players in their careers."

"It will scar me for a very long time — I hope it will scar my players for a long time too."

"As manager I'm big enough to take the flack for the defeat, but take nothing away from Bedlington — they were superb!

ENDEAVOUR

"Not one individual in my side performed well, while the Terriers players lived up to their name and all played stormers."

"While we slipped and slid around they chased everything down and credit to them, they won with total endeavour."

"Games against minnows are always potential banana skins for the biggest of clubs and as everyone involved with Colchester over the years is well aware the FA Cup throws up the opportunity for players to become giant-killers."

"There is an old saying that you're only as good as your last game and right now we are the mugs!"

"A few months ago the

same set of Colchester players gave our fans a tremendous night to remember at Wembley.

"But I felt desperately sorry for those magnificent fans who travelled to Bedlington on Saturday and had to stand out in the rain to watch us perform so badly."

Wignall said he had searched long and hard in his heart for reasons why the U's had performed so poorly and he pointed out that results such as this were often the biggest catalyst to managers sackings over the years.

UNFORTUNATE

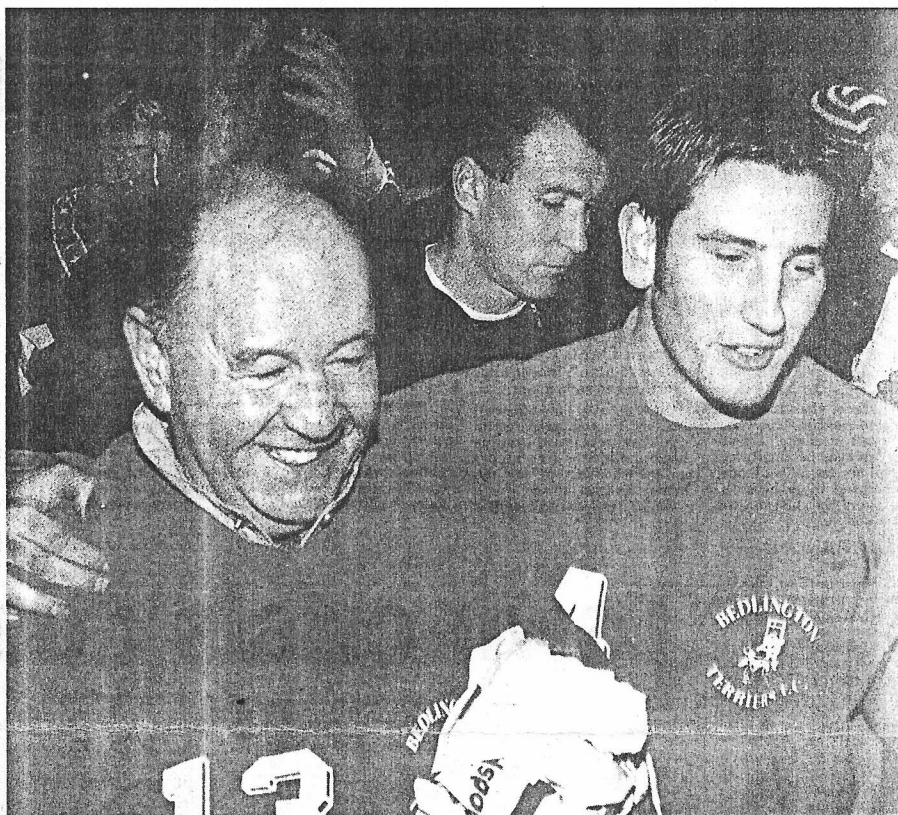
"It wasn't the defeat so much as the nature of the defeat that bothered me," he remarked.

"Steve Whitton and I were very positive before the game and our preparation was right for the day."

"I honestly felt we were a little unfortunate to fall 2-0 behind, but once Bedlington were in front the stage was set for them to go on and seal their glory."

"Good luck to them — they worked very hard for it while we let ourselves down."

● Match report and picture special on pages 35, 36 and 37.



● Misery and joy — the two different sides to FA Cup success and failure are summed up by Bedlington backroom staff and U's manager Steve Wignall. Picture: STEVE BRADY

Dyer's dismay at disallowed goal

IPSWICH Town beat Barnsley 1-0 but had a goal disallowed for off-side even though it was a Tyke who passed the ball back.

He said: "I couldn't believe it when the goal was disallowed."

"Matt Appleby played the ball back and I got to it and put it in and was away off to the Town fans to celebrate. We were still celebrating when they were getting ready for the free kick."

by **DEREK DAVIS**

"Really they could have scored while we were still down the pitch."

"In the end it didn't affect the result but if Barnsley had equalised it would have been outrageous."

"At least the referee and the linesman were big enough to admit they were wrong."

Town were less than convincing in beating Barnsley, who played the last 17 minutes with only nine men.

Dyer is today training at Five Lakes, Hotel, Golf and Country Club, at Tolleshunt Knights, in preparation for tomorrow's England under 21 game at Portman Road.

He will be without roommate Richard Wright who has been called into the full England squad to face the Czech Republic on Wednesday at Wembley.

He said: "I'm absolutely delighted for Richard and it rounded off the best month of his life."

"But I know he's disappointed to miss the under 21s

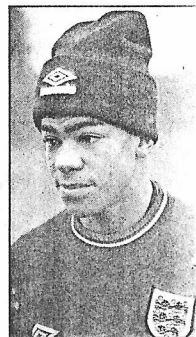
game at Ipswich."

Ipswich boss George Burley said: "Our passing was not as good as it normally is but we worked hard to secure the points."

"We have a habit of winning and keeping clean sheets and want to continue that."

One blip for Town is an injury to scorer David Johnson who limped off with a knee injury picked up in training.

Burley said: "We are hoping it is not too serious."



● Kieron Dyer

LATEST

170 WOMEN ACCUSE SACKED SURGEON: More than 170 women claim they could have been injured by incompetent surgeon. Women expected to make allegations at meeting in Folkestone tonight of how they suffered years of pain during botched operations by surgeon Rodney Ledward, who was struck off medical register six weeks ago. Around 172 women contacted William Harvey hospital in Kent.

NEWS UPDATE

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TERRIERS SAVAGE UNITED

OH no — not again! Steve Wignall's FA Cup curse struck again as rampant North-East minnows Bedlington Terriers — a good five divisions lower in football's pyramid — ran riot against his Second Division Colchester United to leave the U's boss and many of his players red-faced and visibly shaken by the experience.

Many of this same U's squad have given Wignall two Wembley finals; a richly deserved promotion and two play-off semi-finals to cheer about — but they just cannot begin to match those triumphs for their manager in the FA Cup.

SHOCK

Twice before in Wignall's four-year reign his team have come unstuck against non-league opposition — 2-0 at Gravesend and Northfleet in 1995-96 and 5-4 on penalties at Hereford last season after two 1-1 draws.

Another unwanted shock result awaited the Essex men at the Terriers' tiny Doctor



FRANCIS PONDER
reports from
Doctor Pit Welfare,
Bedlington

North-east minnows leave U's red-faced and shaken

Pit Welfare ground in Saturday's first round as the hungry reigning Arnott Insurance Northern League First Division champions celebrated the eve of their half-centenary with a perfect fairytale result.

It certainly wasn't what the doctor ordered for the U's, but take nothing away from the Terriers.

They snapped around the ankles of the shell-shocked U's players like tireless and mischievous puppies and on a cramped, heavy and undulating ground — resembling the worst of sparsely appointed Jewson League pitches on a really bad day — the Northumberland minnows set about creating the greatest chapter yet in their FA Cup history.

Already boasting six matches and 20 goals in this

year's four qualifying rounds, Bedlington — undefeated at home in league and cup action since February — did not have to wait too long to hit the goal trail again.

The U's had looked the livelier of the two sides in the opening exchanges, but the tie was all but over after only 23 dramatic minutes as, with heavy rain falling, the Terriers raced into an amazing 2-0 lead.

BOOKED

U's keeper Carl Emberson had already distinguished himself with a smart save, racing off his line, to block the goal-hungry John Milner, but with 16 minutes gone he was unluckily booked for handling the ball as he rushed outside his area to halt the ever dangerous Richie Bond.



● Heated exchange — referee Matt Messias has to calm things down as tempers start to boil.
Pictures: STEVE BRADY

Disaster struck for the visitors as central defender Tommy Ditchburn smartly deflected Martin Pike's resulting free-kick past the helpless Emberson to put Bedlington 1-0 ahead.

The place erupted as the Terriers achieved the start they wanted and the roof was lifted off the stand again seven minutes later when the ball broke kindly for Milner to sidefoot goal number two into an empty net from the edge of the area after Emberson and his captain David Gregory got into a tangle attempting to halt a quick breakaway by Dean Gibb.

STUNNED

Colchester were clearly stunned by the double setback and as the home side went in search of even more goals, Jason Dozzell fired a great 39th minute close range chance over the bar, while big Mark Sale squandered another great chance to reduce the lead with a soft six-yard header straight at O'Connor in injury-time.

Wignall rang the changes at half-time, replacing the out of sorts Dozzell and Stamps with Karl Duguid and Nicky Haydon, but after the U's best spell of the game the Terriers hit back with a vengeance in a swift break on the hour to go 3-0 ahead.

Gibb pulled off an adventurous backheel to set Micky Cross free inside the area on the left and the midfielder wheeled away in glee and shocked disbelief as his left-foot cross-cum-shot floated over Emberson into the net.

Tony Lock was twice unlucky with good efforts either side of the Terriers' third goal — his second a crashing volley that cannoned off the bar — and David Greene scuffed an inch-perfect Joe Dunne cross wide of an open goal 13 minutes from full-time.

The Terriers had strong claims for a penalty turned down when Milner hit the deck under challenge from Greene on 79 minutes.

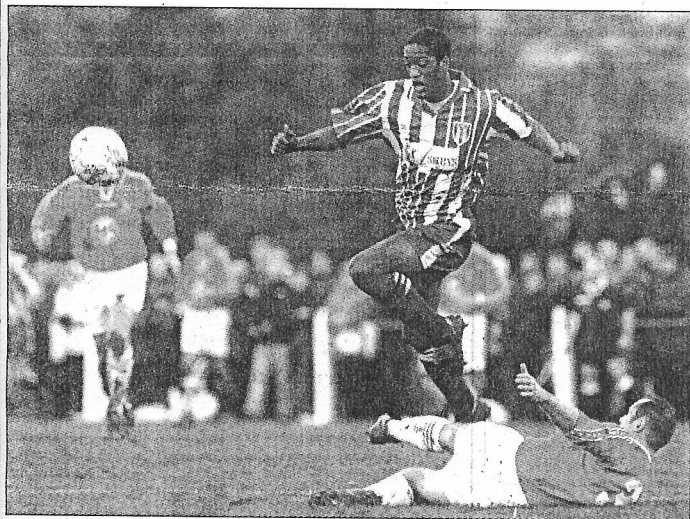
And there was another lucky let-off for the U's seconds later when Gibb had a goal ruled out for offside after Emberson had superbly tipped John Sokoluk's stinging 20-yard free-kick against the bar.

Milner had the last laugh though as he got up to see Emberson the wrong way with an 86th minute spick — his second goal of the match and 26th for the season after Paul Buckle brought him down.

Four-nil ahead and loving every minute of their success little Bedlington relaxed enough for 68th minute substitute Tony Adcock to be in a consolation 88th minute effort for the U's.

Bedlington who? said the U's when the draw was made.

The Terriers left the Lay Road men in no doubt, while they were on the final whistle as they soaked up the triumph and the glory.



● Evasic action — Steve Forbes has to leap a Bedlington challenge.



● Mine — David Greene heads clear from another Bedlington attack.

How Bedlington boss plotted U's downfall

JUBILANT Terriers team boss Tony Lowery was beside himself with glee as he paid tribute to his triumphant cup warriors.

"This is a wonderful day for me and the club," he said "And to cap our giant-killing with another tie against a League club (Scunthorpe away) is beyond our wildest dreams.

"I thought some of our football in the first half was outstanding, considering the awful conditions.

"And Colchester is no mean scalp. "I had them watched twice and studied videos of their games myself and I impressed upon my lads in the dressing room before the match that

they were in for a tough game against a very good footballing side. "We scored at the right time, but at no time did I think the game was safe," said Lowery.

CHANNELS

"At half-time when we were 2-0 up. I told the boys to take nothing for granted and go out to play the second half as though it was still 0-0.

"Even when we were three goals up I kept urging my players to push forward and get the ball in the channels, but I did allow myself to breathe a little easier when we scored our fourth goal just before fulltime."

MATCH FACTS

Colchester Subs: Haydon 6 (Stamps 45), Duguid 6 (Dozzell 45), Adcock 6 (Forbes 68). Not used: Fernandez, Betts.

REFEREE: Matt Messias (Pike) 7.

BOOKINGS Terriers: York (31), Middleton (40), Gibb (66). **U's:** Emberson (16), Sale (76), Greene (88).

ATTENDANCE: 2,027.

U's STAR MAN: Joe Dunne.

Bedlington Subs not used: Renforth, Bowes, Cameron, Ludlow, Egen.

RESULTS

AXA FA Cup round one (Friday): Manchester City 3 Halifax 0, Swansea 3 Millwall 0. **(Saturday):** Basingstoke 1 Bournemouth 2, Bedlington 4 U's 1, Brentford 5 Camberley 0, Bristol Rovers 2 Welling 0, Cardiff 6 Chester 0, Cheltenham 0 Lincoln 1, Dulwich 0 Southport 1, Enfield 2 York 2, Hartlepool 2 Carlisle 1, Hednesford 3 Barnet 1, Kingstonian 1 Burton 0, Leyton Orient 4 Brighton 2, Macclesfield 2 Slough 2, Mansfield 2 Hayes 1, Northampton 2 Lancaster 1, Oldham 2 Gillingham 0, Plymouth 0 Kidderminster 0, Preston 3 Ford 0, Reading 0 Stoke 1, Runcorn 1 Stevenage 1, Rushden 1 Shrewsbury 0, Salisbury 0 Hull 2, Scarborough 1 Rochdale 1, Southend 0 Doncaster 1, Tamworth 2 Exeter 2, Telford 0 Cambridge 2, Walsall 1 Gresley 0, Wigan 4 Blackpool 3, Woking 0 Scunthorpe 1, Worcester 0 Torquay 1, Wrexham 1, Peterborough 0, Wycombe 1, Chesterfield 0, Yeovil 2 West Auckland 2. **(Sunday):** Boreham Wood 2 Luton 3, Emsay 1 Rotherham 1, Fulham 1 Leigh 1, Hendon 0 Notts County.

U's		
EMBERSON 5		
DUNNE 7	STAMPS 5	
GREGORY 6	GREENE 6	
BUCKLE 6	DOZZELL 5	
WILLIAMS 6	FORBES 6	
LOCK 6	SALE 6	
○		
GIBB 7	MILNER 8	MIDDLETON 6
MELROSE 6	CROSS 7	BOND 8
TEASDALE 6	DITCHBURN 7	
SOKOLUK 7	PIKE 7	
O'CONNOR 7		
REDINGTON		



● Dejected — Steve Forbes trudges back to the centre circle after Bedlington score their second goal.

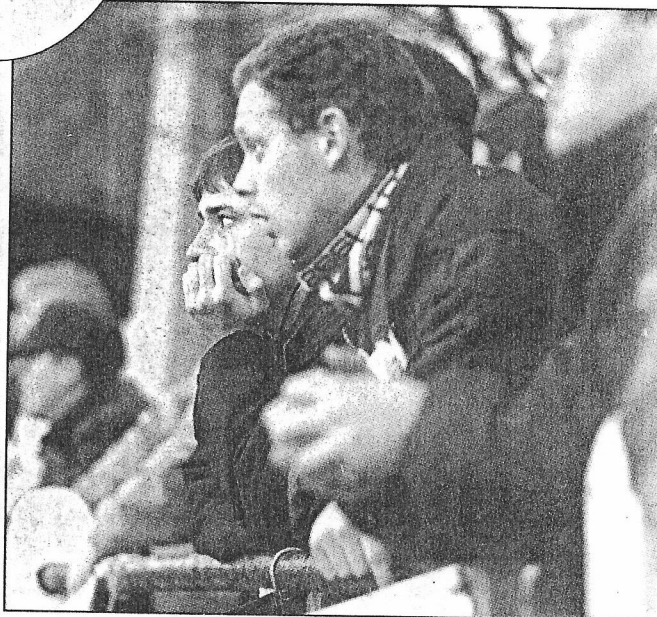
● Challenged — John Dunne, left, loses out to a Bedlington challenge.



Pictures by chief photographer
STEVE BRADING



● Karl Duguid — shields the ball in a midfield tussle.



● Shock and worry — U's fans just can't believe what's happening. Centre, one fan tries to urge his team on.