

All smiles for our Ozzie

PARK LIFE

By Steve Brown

PICKING Mark 'Ozzie' Osborn up in Milton Keynes on Monday morning for training, it was easy to spot him.

He was the guy wearing a broad smile that he obviously hadn't taken off all weekend. I'm convinced he was smiling in his sleep.

On his full league debut against Cambridge, he was not only happy to be on the winning side but to also keep a clean sheet.

Leading up to last Saturday's game there seemed to be a bit of uncertainty, or a goalkeeping crisis as some people put it. But all week Ozzie was never fazed or nervous about the fact that he might be playing.

He did actually say he would not be nervous until he was out warming up before the game.

Well just when we thought the only change needed to improve the game was referees, FIFA decided they would put the cat amongst the pigeons by announcing that there should be no more transfer fees.

These will be replaced by compensation paid to the club of the player who is under contract, based on his salary.

Everyone knows the spiralling transfer fees being paid are over inflated, but while there are clubs out there willing to pay those prices for players there will always be a market.

Now FIFA want to eliminate the actual transfer fee, who actually benefits from that?

Well the players' situation does not really change; the buying club gets the player; and the player's last club gets back the salary they paid him in compensation.

That sounds like the big clubs will benefit to me.

Most lower league clubs rely on selling promising younger players to the big clubs for a handsome profit. Many clubs need to do this to balance the books, why should they lose that option.

There is no other way a football club will be able to make that kind of profit a year, unless you've got the following of a top premiership club. It's a debate which will run for sometime, and I will be following it very closely.

Tomorrow sees the first round draw of the FA Cup (Sky 5.30pm) and after this season Worthington's Cup exploits, it will be nice to embark on another cup run.

I'm sure the manager has fond memories of this cup, being a Wembley goal-scoring winner.

Most important to us though will be a home draw. How can I say that with our away record?

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Bristol R	11	4	2	0	9	4	3	0	2	7	5	23
Notts Co	10	2	1	1	5	3	4	1	1	13	7	20
Stoke	11	3	2	1	9	6	3	0	2	9	6	20
Wigan	9	4	1	0	10	3	1	3	0	8	5	19
Burnley	11	4	1	1	11	6	1	3	1	2	2	19
Wycombe	11	3	2	1	11	7	2	2	1	5	5	19
Preston	11	3	1	2	6	8	2	3	0	8	5	19
Bréntford	9	4	1	0	10	3	0	4	0	6	6	17
Brnemth	10	4	1	0	11	3	1	1	3	4	8	17
Luton	11	4	1	0	12	6	1	1	4	3	7	17
Gillingham	11	3	1	2	11	7	1	3	1	7	7	16
Bury	11	4	1	1	15	10	0	3	2	3	6	16
Wrexham	11	3	0	2	8	7	1	2	3	7	13	14
Millwall	9	2	2	0	7	5	1	2	2	5	7	13
Bristol C	10	2	3	0	9	4	1	0	4	4	9	12
Cardiff	11	1	4	0	5	4	1	1	4	8	12	11
Oxford	11	2	1	3	8	8	1	1	3	5	8	11
Scunthrp	11	1	1	3	4	6	2	1	3	4	9	11
Chesterfld	10	1	1	3	4	6	1	2	2	4	4	9
Reading	10	2	2	1	7	6	0	0	5	8	16	8
Oldham	10	2	0	3	5	5	0	1	4	4	9	7
Camb Utd	11	1	3	1	9	9	0	1	5	6	12	7
Blackpool	11	1	3	1	5	5	0	1	5	6	15	7
Colchester	9	1	1	2	5	8	1	0	4	3	13	7