

Well, thank heaven for Jesus

RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WELL this season has certainly been an exhilarating voyage of twists and turns but, we've finally reached the safety zone.

In the space of just a few short months we've gone from potential promotion candidates to possible relegation victims. And somewhere in between we became FA Cup giant killers and so nearly finalists. Whatever you say about being a Blues fan, life definitely isn't dull.

I cannot think of a more deserving player than Dave Carroll to score the vital goal that stopped us thinking about the unthinkable. 'Jesus' has created many miracles for the Blues over the years but his two goals last week were real manna from heaven.

Dave has now netted 100 goals in just over 550 games, an excellent return for a midfielder who also makes so many goals for his team-mates. Hopefully the Big Chief and Jesus will be able to agree a new contract so that we can look forward to some more Wavy Davy magic next season.

The last week has seen some contrasting times for ex-Wanderers managers and coaches. Whilst Martin O'Neill chases a hat-trick of trophies at Celtic, Alan Smith and David Kemp are chased out of town by Crystal Palace and Oxford United.

The Irishman with the Midas touch has enjoyed an unbelievable season of success in his first year at Celtic and it is hardly surprising that Manchester United are hoping to entice him to Old Trafford. Mind you, it wouldn't surprise me if he turned them down.

Meanwhile the dastardly duo of Smith and Kemp have both managed to lead their teams to relegation battles. I'm not sure whether to be pleased or disappointed about the demise of Alan Smith. I was looking forward to seeing our boys play Crystal Palace off the park next season, with the Big Chief giving the Bald Eagle a tactical thrashing.

After all the heroic performances by Martin Taylor it was disappointing that he didn't get selected by the PFA as the top keeper in Division Two. That honour went to Walker of Walsall but, Martin must have run him close. We got a little bit of reflected glory though as two Blues old boys did make the team, Mickey Bell and Matt Lawrence were picked as the two wing backs.

Now all we've got left to look forward to this season is giving the cowboys of Colchester a good beating on Saturday. That would give us something to smile about all through the summer.

Roll on August and the arrival of some new blood to help the Big Chief build a side capable of making a push for promotion. I'm sure if the board give Lawrie a reasonable amount of cash to strengthen the team, coupled with the return of our walking wounded, we'll be up among the front runners next term.