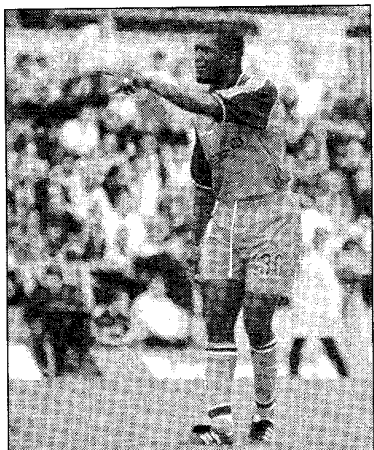


Missing Vale is a big blow



STEVE BROWN

PARKLIFE

I'M gutted to be missing tomorrow's game at Port Vale through suspension. I hate missing any matches particularly when they are as important as this one.

My booking at Fulham was my fifth of the season and that took me over the disciplinary points total for the season and saddled me with a one-game ban.

It's disappointing to be out but it's marvellous for me to get into February before going over the bookings total and I think that must be a record for me.

I don't like missing matches and that's why I will be going to Port Vale to watch the lads.

I know I could have stayed at home and listened to Alan Hutchinson's commentary on Swan FM but I much prefer to be part of the action so I will be going up there and popping my head into the dressing room before the game.

It's a massive match and a massive month for us. We've got seven games in February and we need to win five of them if we are to maintain our promotion push.

The win against Notts County was just what we needed and we need to build on that now by going on a run. I'm always confident about our home form but we need to start getting results away, starting at Port Vale.

I know some of the doom and gloom merchants had their say after we lost to Cambridge, but results like that happen, just ask Burnley who lost in the Cup to Cheltenham or Leeds who lost to Cardiff.

The spirit in the camp is good. We've got a lot of good characters at the club and with people like Terry Gibson around, we all look forward to coming into work and that is important.

Talking about looking forward, I'm looking forward to next Saturday night when me and Martin Taylor are going to visit a group of children who are allergic to daylight.

They are coming from all over the country to a camp at Prestwood and I was asked to go over and help when I met one of their organisers at the Windrush Awards in London last year.