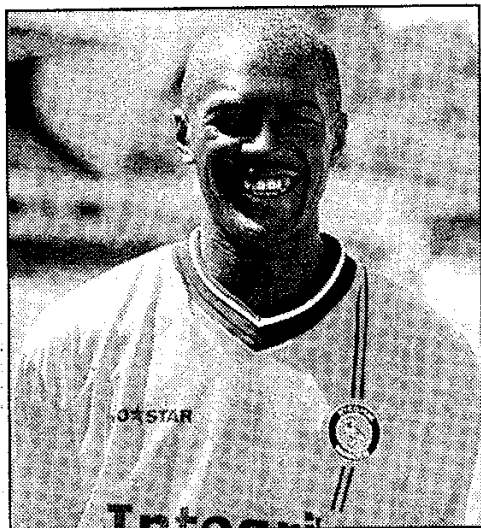


Weekend off? I'd rather be working



STEVE BROWN

PARKLIFE

A LOT of people have said to me that I must be looking forward to a weekend off, but let me tell you I am not.

I would far rather be playing in the FA Cup battling it out for a place in the third round against one of the big boys.

Sadly our performance against Brentford in round one put paid to that.

Things didn't get much better for us at Stockport on Saturday although we so nearly nicked a point with Craig Faulconbridge's header right at the end. Their keeper Lee Jones pulled off the best save I have ever seen to deny us but in truth it would have been an injustice if we had got anything up there.

Unfortunately I also picked up my fifth booking of the season which means I will be suspended for the Port Vale game.

I felt at Stockport that we were defending a little bit too deep and when we did win the ball we were too far back to be effective.

We have got to keep working hard to achieve what we want to achieve. The gaffer came out and said we were making schoolboy mistakes the other week and he was right.

It was pretty sombre on the bus coming home as it always is when we've lost and the trouble this time is that we've got to wait even longer to put things right.

The Stockport game was really interesting to see their player manager Carlton Palmer in action. He was as commanding as he was when he was in the top flight and playing for England but if he made a mistake on the pitch, his team-mates were quick to tell him about it.

I also had a word with Luke Beckett up there. He scored his 16th goal of the season against us and I said to him afterwards that he was looking a lot slimmer than he did when we used to come across him playing for Chesterfield and he told me he hadn't it was just that Stockport's kit is a lot baggier.

Talking of attire, I've put my white boots away for the winter and gone back to the traditional black ones.

It's time to dig in now and much as I enjoy wearing the boots I don't want to stick out for the wrong reason and attract unwanted attention.

We go to Bristol City on Wednesday night in the LDV Vans Trophy and that is now a massive game for us. It could be just what we need to kickstart our season.