

SOCCER STAR HAD RESERVE BEST MAN

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BEST man called away at the last minute to travel as reserve . . . rush round for a reserve best man. And no honeymoon for the bridal pair.

If Manchester United hadn't been fighting for promotion and Newcastle hadn't been struggling to avoid relegation, it would have been a perfectly ordinary wedding.

Jack Smith, Manchester United centre forward, and pretty blonde Lily Baxter, of Springwell, Co. Durham, were married at Washington Parish Church yesterday, but the honeymoon has been postponed until the end of the season.

Billy Cairns, Newcastle centre forward, was to have been best man, but just before the ceremony his club called on him to travel to Chesterfield as reserve. Bob Nicolson, former Burnley half back, acted as best man.

"I met Lily at a party two years ago," Smith told me. "We fell in love at first sight, and when I was transferred to Old Trafford in February Lily got a job in Manchester and followed me there."

Smith was Newcastle United's leading goal scorer for three seasons.

MACARONI II FOR LONDON TROPHY

By THE HURDLER

BUSY Now, runner-up to Juvenile Classic in the National Open Hurdles final, is well fancied to win Clapton's London Trophy event, a hurdle race over 400 yards, but I think it may be best to support the home-trained Macaroni II

White City have a hurdle race for the Northaw Kennel Stakes, likely to be won by Walrond Wizard. Selections:—

White City.—8.0. Bunkered; 8.18. Wildmoor Barclay-corn; 8.36 (H). Walrond Wizard; 8.54. Jubilant's Josephine; 9.12. Beckbury Curious; 9.30. Lynch Law; 9.48. Coronation Teddy; 10.6. Stevedore.

Place Selections.—Gala Revue, Busy Brother, Ballymoley Boy, Jockey's Hunt, Rock Age, Great Record, Cultray, Regency.

Stanford Bridge.—Afternoon.—3.15. Punch O'Dare; 3.33. Hford Bill; 3.51. Monty Horner; 4.9 (H). Sudbury Song; 4.27. Chelsea Bun; 4.45. Bunker; 5.3. Ryan; 5.21. Shirely Bond.

Place Selections.—Dear Bert, Carnation Lad, Dogberry Gmohrel, Socialist Leader, Westminster Chimes, Harvey Frost, Lutetia's Imperial, Boston Clock.

Clapton.—8.0. Red Guide; 8.18. Art Treasure; 8.36. Escaped the Guards; 8.54 (H). Macaroni II; 9.12. Vernon's Latest; 9.30. Last Hop; 9.48. Come On Knock-brack; 10.6. Grand Guide.

Place Selections.—Plaza, Pallanza, Toby Peters, Busy Now, Duna Brezce, Mansion Dec, Turnby Primrose, Wild Clash.

Clapton.—8.15. Miss Cuba; 8.31. Flaming Sunset; 8.47. Bright Impression; 9.3. Kiltomey Boy; 9.19. Grey Opossum; 9.36. Assyrian Mcharch; 9.53. Jellied Veal; 10.11. Greedy Rebecca.

Place Selections.—Lonely Vigil, Exning Prince, Seaside Banker, Bright Dragon, Rab, Jollirambler, Sandfield Boy, Barrie McNab.

Double.—Walrond Wizard (nap) and Lynch Law at White City.

OTHER SELECTIONS

Hackney Wick.—3.30. Parson's Sanctuary; 3.45. Warwick Peter; 4.0 (H). Cahervourneen; 4.15. Morton; 4.30. Warwick Fal; 4.45 (H). Howling Wind; 5.0. Pirate Shore; 5.15. Ptarmigan.

Place Selections.—Dornicle, New Bridge Marvel, Miss Ramair, Champagne Crush, King Knave, Castle Bloom, Bridge of Sighs, Clymene.

Walthamstow.—8.0. John'sido; 8.18. King's Highway; 8.36. Duna Tip; 8.54. Buckworth Tornado; 9.12 (H). Bronze Plate; 9.30. Braddock Hero; 9.48. Precipitation; 10.6. Millview.

Place Selections.—Kippel, Quite Safely, Chingford Bert, Saucy Dick, Lowry St. Square, Diadem Boy, Bridport Baby, Raga Muba.

Charlton.—3.0. Now Dick; 3.15. Guard Boy; 3.30. More Hare; 3.45 (H). Charlit; 4.0. Jarina; 4.15. Newland Susie; 4.30. Love Letter; 4.45. Glendira.

Wandswoth.—8.15. Flying Hammer; 8.30. Spur of the Moment; 8.45 (H). Markham's Might; 9.0. Billie Boy; 9.30. Looky Lad; 9.45. Clo.



'KEY' RACE TO THE DERBY

GUINEAS Week

begins at Newmarket to-day—a great week in itself, but even more important as it affects the future—the Derby in particular.

A great event, the Two Thousand Guineas is the "key" race to the most coveted prize in the world.

Similarly, the One Thousand is the first and only real trial for the Oaks.

Combined, so to speak, the two Epsom races show what should be expected in the St. Leger, which winds up the classic series.

Although fillies are eligible for all five races, I do not remember one of any importance running in the Two Thousand since Sceptre put up her wonderful record in 1902.

That year she beat thirteen rivals in the Two Thousand Guineas and won the One Thousand two days later. She failed in the Derby—won by Ard Patrick, but—again two days later—she came out and won the Oaks.

At Doncaster Sceptre was an easy winner of the St. Leger—a wonderful record for a filly which had actually begun the season with a narrow defeat in the Lincolnshire Handicap.

Of late years the Two Thousand Guineas has been confined entirely to colts, and again there will be nothing in the field to-morrow to challenge Sceptre's record.

Usually when Guineas week comes along most of the classic horses have shown their paces in public.

This season, because of the hard ground, several of the best of them have to be judged on their two-year-old form—which is not going to make winner-finding easy.

Portmarnock—champion two-year-old and present Derby favourite—is one that must be judged entirely on what he did last year. So must Scottish Union, Glen Loan Ramtapa, Caerleopt and Khan Bahadur.

The last-named, a brother to Mahmoud, is one of a trio owned by the Aga Khan. The others are Mirza II and Tahir, and either of this pair seemed more likely to do the trick on

Sceptre's Record Is Safe

this occasion than Khan Bahadur until Tahir unluckily went slightly lame. Now he may not run.

Mirza II was by far the most spectacular two-year-old that ran last year, but unlike Orwell and Colombo his amazing speed could not save him from defeat over six furlongs.

At Doncaster he was cleverly beaten by Portmarnock when Smirke rode a "waiting race." At Newmarket he was literally crawling when Scottish Union caught him on the hill in the Middle Park Stakes.

Brilliant jockeyship—plus favourable conditions—got him home over the Newbury mile at the beginning of this month, but the question is: Will Harry Wragg find himself in the happy position of being able to "ride his own race" to-morrow?

Unless he does I am afraid Mirza II will "blow up," as he did at Newmarket last autumn. They never crawl in the Guineas!

Tahir, even more than Mirza II, is bred on sprinting lines, yet he did get six furlongs last year, and was certainly not disgraced when trying to give Pasch 15lb. at Kempton recently.

"Gordon's first Derby winner at last" is what they have been saying about Pasch for months at Beckhampton, where they do know something about winning the Derby.

I must say I was immensely impressed by Pasch in his first race. Not only did he overcome the handicap of inexperience to win easily, but he was running on at the end like a stayer.

A good downpour or two before the race would make me more happy about his prospects, for I am not sure that he would like really hard ground.

But I am sure he is the good horse he has always been regarded, and that he will prove it with the slightest bit of luck.

Next to the first Derby for Gordon Richards,

the most intriguing possibility is that Pound Foolish will at last break the spell of bad luck that has dogged Lord Astor's colours.

Like Pasch, Pound Foolish did not run as a two-year-old, but unlike Pasch he was easily beaten in his only race this season.

From what I hear there will be more Manton confidence in Ramtapa—owned by Sir Abe Bailey—than Pound Foolish for the Guineas, but I'm told that it is quite likely to be the other way round at Epsom.

Rafano—a brother to Rodosto, who was successful in 1933—will give France a big interest in the race they won last year with Le Ksar, but I have an idea that we shall keep the prize at home this time.

Pasch, Portmarnock and Ramtapa are the trio I fancy most, and latest news and knowledge of the conditions must decide the final choice.

Frank Butters, who trains Tahir, Mirza II and Khan Bahadur, will have no fewer than five runners in the One Thousand Guineas on Friday.

Radiant (G. Richards), Solar Flower (Perryman), La Li (Elliott), Ann of Austria (Smirke),



Unless HARRY WRAGG can "ride his own race" to-morrow, I'm afraid Mirza II will "blow up"

and Stafaralla (Harry Wragg) are the Fitzroy House "guins," all of them pretty smart, particularly Stafaralla, who was only just behind Tahir at Kempton recently.

"That's the first good horse I've owned and it does give one a kick," said Prince Aly to me after that race. I am sure he is looking more than hopefully to leading in his first classic winner on Friday.

Stafaralla's two-year-old form and the evidence that she has not looked back certainly justify his optimism, but "on information received," as they say in other quarters, don't leave out Scotia's Glen.

Sir Victor Sassoon won the One Thousand last year with Exhibitionist after that filly had finished second in the Free Handicap.

Scotia's Glen did not get quite so close in the corresponding race this season, but she was a good fourth to the "good thing" Lapel, to which she was conceding 23lb.

Rockfel, who was just in front of Scotia's Glen, was a good winner at Epsom last week and she will not be receiving 9lb when they meet again on Friday.

The Mulligans

