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UP FOR THE CUPS!

By HARRY MILLER
EMLYN HUGHES pledged last night that a Liverpool victory in today's FA Cup Final will guarantee them a history-making treble.

As manager Bob Paisley ended the "who plays" guessing game by picking David Johnson and excluding David Fairclough from even his usual role of sub, skipper Hughes said:

"If we beat United to add the Cup to the League title, then we'll go on to complete the treble.

"But defeat will make it very difficult for us to beat Moenchengladbach in the European final in Rome on Wednesday.

"I was in Liverpool's Wembley side that lost 2-1 to Arsenal after extra time in 1971. Believe me it's a killer. It took me a couple of months to get over it... never mind four days.

"No team, surely, has ever had a greater incentive to win the Cup. We're playing at Wembley for two trophies."

The unlucky Fairclough is expected to play at some stage in Rome. But as he said: "That possibility is no consolation for being left out at Wembley. I'm

WEMBLEY PITCH IS A DISGRACE

MANCHESTER United coach Tommy Cavanagh last night called the Wembley pitch "a disgrace."

Cavanagh said: "The grass in many areas is either too thin or too long. I've seen better local parks at this time of year."

The treble is in the bag if we beat United

—EMLYN HUGHES

disappointed, but I've got to accept it."

Paisley's decision to play Johnson and leave out Fairclough—Ian Callaghan is sub—had much to do with the stamina-sapping Wembley pitch.

Fairclough is regarded as a runner, and Paisley put the point: "Charging around on that turf is like committing harakiri."

Johnson will be part of a plan to put pressure on United's Martin Buchan—who has had a battle to get fit after being injured at West Ham on Monday.



Going my way.. There was disappointment yesterday for David Fairclough (left). Ian Callaghan was moving the other way—into Liverpool's squad as sub. Picture: CHARLES OWENS

YOUR BEST PULL-OUT GUIDE TO THE FINAL—PAGES 15, 16, 17 & 18

Revie to rest Liverpool four

RAY CLEMENCE, Ray Kennedy, Emyln Hughes and Kevin Keegan will be excused duty next Saturday when England kick off the home championship against Northern Ireland, writes Harry Miller.

The Liverpool foursome are due to play in the European Cup Final against Borussia Moenchengladbach in Rome on Wednesday and England manager Don Revie said: "It would be asking a bit much of them to play again so soon after being involved in two cup finals. They will feel a lot fresher after a short break."

CONTEH'S STAND-IN ENDS THE DOUBTS

From PETER STEPHENS in Monte Carlo

AMERICAN light-heavyweight Jesse Burnett WILL be fighting Argentina's Miguel Cuello for the world title here tonight.

He signed his contract last night—with barely 24 hours to go—after receiving assurances from the World Boxing Council that the title would be at stake.

"Now we know that we are happy with the contract," said manager Jessie Reid.

And Burnett promised: "I'll be going for a K.O. There's no way I can get a points decision here." Burnett, 30, flew in on

Thursday as a substitute for Britain's defending champion, John Conteh. He threatened to return home when he heard reports that it would become a non-title bout.

Cuello met Burnett for the first time at lunch yesterday. They shook hands and exchanged wisecracks as they were presented to reporters.

But when Burnett met Carlos Monzon, the world middleweight champion, there was a nasty exchange. It ended in a scuffle in which Monzon was knocked down.

Villa climb to fourth

By DAVE HORRIDGE

Aston Villa 1, QPR 1. A 25-YARD rocket shot by Gordon Cowans took Villa a step nearer their target of finishing in their highest First Division position for 44 years.

The 18-year-old hit a left-foot drive that went in off a post in the 63rd minute and the point lifts Villa to fourth in the table.

Villa could have had the game won by half-time.

Rangers went ahead in the 52nd minute when Ron Abbott deflected a Don Masson corner kick past John Burridge.

Andy Gray and Dennis Mortimer hit posts, and Phil Parks saved well.

BRIEFLY..

WREXHAM manager John Neal whose side just missed out on promotion to the Second Division, stepped up into the First Division yesterday—as manager of Middlesbrough.

NEWPORT No. 8 Jeff Squire flies out to join the injury-stricken British Lions Rugby Union tour party on Monday. Squire replaces Roger Uttley, the Gosforth and England captain, who has withdrawn because of back trouble.

STOCKPORT'S Ian Heaps smashed the UK and European five hour match record when he weighed in a remarkable 166lb. 11oz. of roach to clinch the Benson and Hedges Championship on the River Erne at Enniskillen in Northern Ireland.

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