

Fans hurt in the scramble to welcome Cup-winners



MAD UNITED!

HUNDREDS of fans were battered and bruised as United's triumphant return from Wembley brought chaos and pandemonium to Manchester yesterday.

It was a fabulous welcome even by the standards of a city

By MIRROR REPORTERS

accustomed to saluting conquering heroes.

But as the team's bus inched its way through the cheering hordes—a sea of red and white—and the sun glistened on the FA Cup, ambulance men were working overtime.

Crush barriers were wrecked and trampled into a tangle of steel

pipes. Young trees were uprooted and their branches stripped in the wild scramble for vantage points.

There were at least 350 casualties outside the town hall alone.

A St. John Ambulance official said: "There must have been many more along the route."

"The people we dealt with were of all ages. Most of them were suffering from the heat, but there were fractures and crush injuries."

Sports Minister Denis Howell will today receive an eye-witness report from his deputy Ken Marks, Labour MP for Gorton.

Control

Mr. Marks said: "There is a lot to be said for a reception like this being held at a football ground—a place purpose-built for crowd control. I will be talking to Mr. Howell about it."

Thousands of fans had been camping out in the town hall square from early morning, and all police leave was cancelled for the day.

But there were only a dozen arrests, for disorderly conduct—and a senior police officer said: "On the whole we were delighted with the conduct of the fans."

FRANK MCGHEE'S VERDICT—Pages 30, 31.



Goalkeeper Alex Stepney waves the Cup as Manchester goes mad. The welcome began (top) with police wrestling to control young fans as the team arrived at Wilmslow station.

Writing on the wall, says Hill

GORDON HILL, Manchester United's England winger, who was substituted for the second successive FA Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday, talked last night of "the writing on the wall."

Future

Hill, replaced by David McCreery for the last nine minutes, left his future open to speculation as he reflected: "When this kind of thing keeps happening, it is

bound to put doubts in your mind.

"There is no malice. I know the boss did what he believed was the best, but you have to face the facts."

United skipper Martin Buchan and Lou Macari could miss the Home International Championship series through injury.

Buchan played at Wembley despite knee ligament trouble and Macari has a gashed shin.

PAUL TAKES HIS BRUISES ON TOUR

By HARRY MILLER

ENGLAND'S Under-21 squad will tomorrow head for European championship games in Finland and Norway, with Paul Fletcher stitched and bruised.

The £250,000-rated Luton defender was injured against Blackpool three weeks ago.

Last night, as the squad assembled in London, tour manager Les Cocker said: "You've got to admire the lad."

"He had an ear stitched up and put together again, plus badly bruised ribs, as a result of that Blackpool game."

"Paul hasn't played since. But he's very important to us against Finland in Helsinki on Thursday."

Laurie Cunningham and John Deehan will join the squad after tonight's match between Villa and W. Bromwich.

BARRAS IS ROAD KING



YORKSHIREMAN Sid Barras (above) stormed to his twelfth success in fourteen pro outings this season when he won Britain's longest single day road race yesterday.

Barras shook off the handicap of a badly bruised back to win the Empire Stores London to Holyhead 265-mile marathon by half a length.

Sprint

Ironically Barras won the event when it was last staged seven years ago.

The 29-year-old Bantel star beat five other riders in a sprint finish. The six were the survivors of an eight-strong group that moved clear with

only 49 miles remaining.

He took the decision from Bradford's Keith Lambert (Holdsworth), whose team-mate, Phil Corley, was only inches away in third place.

The sprint was led out by Londoner Steve Hefferman, a first-year professional. But he faded in the final 100 yards and had to settle for fourth place in front of Danny Horton (Chessington) and Irishman Alan McCormack.

The first five riders all recorded times of 11h. 32m. 15s.

The first 200 miles of the race were dominated by another small group with Frank Lyon (Falcon Cycles) sharing the lead for over 150 miles.

JODY SCORES AS HUNT BLOWS IT

SOUTH AFRICAN Jody Scheckter won the Monaco Grand Prix here yesterday to give the Ford Cosworth V8 engine its hundredth Grand Prix victory.

Driving one of the new Wolf cars entered by Canadian millionaire Walter Wolf, he led from start to finish. But he crossed the finishing line less than a second ahead of Austrian Niki Lauda's Ferrari.

The British-built engine won the Dutch Grand Prix for the late Jim Clark on its first outing in 1967. No other racing engine has ever notched up a century.

It was a disappointing day for two British drivers, world champion James Hunt and Ulsterman John Watson.

Hunt, who has never finished at Monaco in any kind of event, said: "If I entered a bicycle race here I would fall off."

He was lying fifth, with only a third of the

From PAT MENNEM In Monte Carlo

race gone, when the engine of his Marlboro McLaren blew up.

John Watson, lying second in the Martini Brabham for much of the race, retired with gearbox trouble.

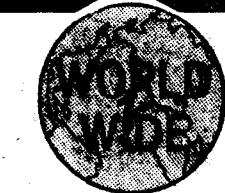
It seemed then that Scheckter would be able to coast to victory, but Lauda stormed after him to finish little more than a car's length away.

BRITAIN'S Geoff Capes recorded the best shot putt in the world this year at Southampton yesterday—68ft. 10in.—to beat Hreinn Halldorsson, Iceland's European indoor champion.

JUVENTUS yesterday clinched the Italian League title for the fourth time in six years with a 2-0 win at Sampdoria. They finished one point ahead of local rivals Torino; who beat Genoa 5-1.

PAPUA'S Norma de la Motte tops the singles table in the women's world bowls championships at Worthing. Helen Gordon, of Israel, Canada's June Bell and Ireland's Nessie Burnett share second place.

MARK MOULAND, 16-year-old British boys' champion led Millfield to their second victory in the Aer Lingus school-boys' golf team championship at Foxhills, Surrey, yesterday. Midhurst GS took the girls' title.



RUDI GLOECKNER, East Germany's top Soccer referee, is retiring. Gloeckner, 48, took charge of the 1970 World Cup final between Brazil and Italy in Mexico.

NICK BURTON, 16, from Burton Overly, won the Leicestershire play-off in the Daily Mirror Junior darts championship in Leicester yesterday.

THE Mirror's Frank Taylor has been elected President of the newly-constituted European Union of International Sports Writers at a congress in Italy.

BELGIUM'S Freddy Maertens retained the overall lead in the Tour of Italy cycling classic after the second stage from Avellino to Foggia.

CALLING ALL CYCLISTS! FOUR EDDIE MERCKX RACING BIKES TO BE WON TOMORROW