SUNDERLAND NEED THE MONEY TO MOVE IN FOR CHELSEA'S £65,000 BUTLER

Forest will bid £100,000 for Baxter

By PETER INGALL

NOTTINGHAM FOREST will today bid £100,000 for Jim Baxter, 27, Sunderland's Scottish international inside forward or wing half.

They hope to complete the deal in time for Baxter to play in Saturday's home game against Sheffield United.

Sunderland will not ask less than £100,000 for Baxter, who cost them their record fee of £75,500 when signed from Glasgow Rangers in May, 1965. They need the money to bid for Chelsea full back Geoff Butler, who is rated at £65,000.

Forest chairman Tony Wood told me yesterday: "I shall contact Sunderland tomorrow to find out what the position is regarding Baxter. If our bid is accepted we shall do everything to persuade him to join us.

"I regard Baxter as one of the best players in the world and just the type to settle into Forest's style of play."

Ian McColl, the Sunderland manager said last night: "Every player has his price but we shall have to think carefully before committing ourselves on such a key player."

Forest have promised the fans a big signing since being knocked out of the Fairs Cup by Zurich.

They look upon Baxter as the man to halt their present bad run.

No Goals

They have gone four successive games without a point or a goal. And on Saturday they were losing 1—0 to Leicester when the game was abandoned.

If Sunderland do sell Baxter and also follow up last week's approach to Chelsea for Butler, it could be the beginning of a new era at Roker Park.

The club, plagued by repeated failures, may be ready to make a clear-out and start afresh.

BARNES LEFT OUT

Chester Barnes, England's No. 2 player, is left out of the team for the open table tennis championships in Rumania and Czechoslovakia, early next year. Team:

Mike Johns (Cheshire), Denis Neale (Yorkshire), Mary Wright (Surrey) Judy Heaps (Cheshire).

FIXTURES

(Kick-off 7.30)

FIRST DIVISION

West Ham v. West Brom .....

F A CUP
First Round

Peterborough v. Falmouth .....

First Round—Replay

Bradford v. Grimsby .....

OTHER MATCH

Man. City v. Sparta Prague (Czechoslovakia) .....

SOCCER RESULTS

TOUR MATCH (Lorient, France) —Lorient 0, Russia 0.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TIES Preliminary round, first leg: Malagasy 1, Ethiopia 0 (in Tananarive). Second leg: Haiti 3, Costa Rica 2 (Costa Rica won 5—4 on aggregate) (in Port-au-Prince)

SNOW ROBBED ARSENAL OF A BIG WIN

By NIGEL CLARKE

Arsenal 1, Sheff. W. 0 (abandoned after 47 minutes)

WHEN referee Eric Jennings, of Stourbridge, called off this game two minutes after half-time, he did Sheffield Wednesday a favour.

The snow that swept across Highbury in a blinding blizzard could not disguise the fact that Sheffield were in for a hiding.

Arsenal, neat in their approach play and dangerous with their running from deep positions, had taken the lead through Frank McLintock and gone close to getting other goals.

Referee Jennings said last night: "It was the only thing I could do."

Highbury fans disagreed. They claimed that five minutes after his final decision to abandon the match, the snow cleared and visibility was normal.

Says Jennings: "That might be so, but when I made the decision I couldn't see my linesmen. I stopped it for ten minutes hoping it would clear, but it was still no good."

Arsenal's Scottish forward George Graham had a good game, but will visit Highbury today to have a nagging groin injury treated.

Graham would have missed Wednesday's Under-23 international against Wales in Aberdeen because of the injury, but weather conditions forced the game to be called off last night.

Ian Ure, who has just finished a six-week suspension, plays in a reserve match against Swindon tomorrow.

Says Arsenal manager Bertie Mee: "He could be back in the first team at Stoke on Saturday."

Millwall shine at Soccer on the ice

Millwall 2, Preston 0

MILLWALL took the points off Preston because they adopted the right tactics for the snow-covered pitch — a go-ahead, no-nonsense style.

Preston showed no such adaptability. They tried to play football that was impossible in the conditions, and paid the penalty.

Keith Weller, Millwall's best forward, pounced for the first goal when Preston 'keeper Alan Kelly's feet slipped beneath him as he shaped to dive on to the ball.

A bad back pass by John Ritchie cost Preston the second goal, scored by Bryan Conlon.

Marsh treads so carefully

Birmingham 2, QPR 0

FORWARDS Barry Bridges and Rodney Marsh illustrated the difference in attitude of these two promotion-pushing sides in this St. Andrews ice show.

Bridges, in peak form and brimful of confidence, sped over the snowy surface causing alarm to the Rangers defence. Marsh, fighting back to form after a long lay-off through injury, strolled gingerly on the icy surface and plainly his heart was not completely in it.

And the rest of Rangers seemed to be in the same mood.

Shocked by a Tony Hazell own goal after three minutes, they were swept out of their stride by non-stop aggressive Blues.

Birmingham scored only one more goal through big Fred Pickering in the 75th minute.

It would have been a rout but for some wonder saves by veteran Ron Springett, in his best England form.

Alan Mullery, Spurs wing half, goes slithering in the snow while Manchester City's Mike Summerbee seems perfectly balanced.

THE CLOWNS ON A SKID PATCH

KEN JONES says: Would it have been worth while if someone had broken a leg?

THE quality of Manchester City's football on the ice of Maine-road on Saturday was not solely governed by the fact that they could stand up while Spurs were falling down. But it helped.

Television's watching millions saw Spurs slither to a defeat which at White Hart Lane is regarded as the club's most overwhelming slump for some time.

City, on the other hand, skated in style through their best performance of the season.

Did City have some secret grip on a surface that manager Joe Mercer insisted would have been "a test of the best mountain goat"?

Was Spurs' almost exaggerated stumbling the result of an attitude of mind?

Baffled

Colleague Derek Wallis watched the match and remains baffled by the remarkable contrast between City's sure-footed play and Spurs' inability to find their feet.

Spurs are convinced that City discovered a method of coming to terms with the pitch. And that says much for the man who studs their boots.

One player told me last night: "It was extraordinary. City moved like Olympic speed skaters while we were falling about like clowns on a skid patch.

"We must have looked terrible. They looked fantastic.

"Some of us used ordinary studs, others had rubber studs. I don't know what the City lads wore.

"Let's not take anything away from them, though. They looked a great team and good enough to challenge for the championship.

Clumsy

"They've got a terrific forward line and I *wouldn't fancy playing* them too often—on any kind of pitch.

"But we are still baffled by the fact that we looked so clumsy while they were always on their feet."

Bill Nicholson, Spurs manager, thinks the reason for his team's defeat was more than any mere difference in footwear.

He told me: "City may have gained some sort of advantage from their boots. But the difference went much deeper than that.

"It looked to me as though one team wanted to play and one didn't. There was only one team on the park. And it wasn't us.

"The conditions didn't seem to make any difference to City. They went about the job as though they were playing on an ordinary pitch.

"We were all over the place, sliding about and constantly off balance.

"It helps when you have a lot of players in the team with good balance. On the day they might have had more than we did. But our attitude was wrong.

"It's no good saying you can't play on this or that kind of pitch. We have to play football in all kinds of weathers and in all sorts of conditions underfoot.

"Footballers in this country can't expect perfect conditions all the time.

Brilliant

"I am certain that on a better pitch we would have given them a better game.

"But that is no excuse for the way we played. They were brilliant and certainly one of the best teams we have met."

Arguments apart, it is Derek Wallis's view that the match should not have been played.

It seems to me that there are times when we go to ridiculous lengths to get a game out of the way.

City will be more than satisfied with their performance. Spurs are disgusted with theirs.

I suppose that playing the match proved that some people are braver than others.

But would it have been worth while if someone had broken a leg?

TENNIS TEAM 'LOSE' TAYLOR ON WAY TO CUP BATTLE

From C. M. JONES
Stockholm, Sunday.

ROGER TAYLOR, Britain's No. 1 tennis star, got left behind at the airport here today, and had to borrow his bus fare into the city.

It was the climax of a wearisome journey for Britain's Kings Cup team.

After taking twice the scheduled two and a half hours, they reached their hotel too late to see Sweden beat Czechoslovakia 3—0 in the first of the two semi-finals.

Limited

Their practice time was seriously curtailed, making it impossible for captain Bobby Wilson to decide how to deploy his players against Spain in the second semi-final, which begins tomorrow evening.

The Spaniards—conquerors of South Africa in the Davis Cup inter-zone final—were delayed until yesterday by celebrations in Madrid by order of General Franco.

Like Britain, they will settle their team tomorrow, but the singles line-up is likely to be: Taylor v. Manuel Santana, Wilson v. Manuel Orantes.

End?

Spain will probably play Santana and Luis Arilla in a doubles match which is likely to end Britain's three-year stranglehold on the cup.

These two easily beat Wilson and Sangster in the Davis Cup last June, and no permutation of our men here could equal the Wilson-Sangster combination. Wilson and Taylor seem the likeliest choices.

Unless Taylor ends his competitive amateur career with a sensational win over Santana, the best Britain can expect is to beat the Czechs for third place on Tuesday.

SUMMARY

LAWN TENNIS

NEW SOUTH WALES CHAMPIONSHIPS (Sydney). — Singles Finals. Men: T. Roche (Aust.) bt K. Emerson (Aust.) 8—6, 6—1, 5—6. Women: J. Tegart (Aust.) w.o. Mrs. M. Smith Court scr.

KING'S CUP (Stockholm).—Semi-final: Sweden 3, Czechoslovakia 0.

BADMINTON

ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Hull).—Finals: Men's singles: R. Sharp (Kent) bt P. Whetnall (Kent) 15—9, 15—9. Women's singles: A. Bairstow (Surrey) bt G. Perrin (Surrey) 8—11, 12—9, 11—2.

RUGBY UNION

INTERNATIONAL (Nantes). — France 11 pts, Rumania 3.

SKI-ING

SITTADINI CUP (Sportinia, Italy).—Women's giant slalom: 1, B. King (G.B.); 2, B. Newall (G.B.). Men's: 1, C. Quadria (Italy).

CROSS-COUNTRY

JEAN BOUIN INTERNATIONAL (Marseilles).—4½ miles: 1, G. Coutteller (France) 20m. 17s.; 2, G. North (G.B.) same time; 3, J. Hillen (G.B.) 20-32; 4, R. Holt (G.B.) 20-4; 5, C. Maxson (G.B.) 20-53.

FENCING

MEN'S NATIONAL FOIL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (De Beaumont Centre, London).— London Univ. (holders) bt Sofia Paul 9—6.

SNOOKER

AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS (London Section).—R. Laws (Chiswick) bt E. Burt (Hornsey) 4—2, A. Gantert (Willesden) bt R. Wilson (Kennington) 4—3.

TABLE TENNIS

MIDDLESEX OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS (Hanwell).—Men: J. Harrison bt O. Haslam 21—11, 21—14. Women: Mrs. M. Wright bt M. Meswell 21—11, 21—16.