

ABOUT OUR VISITORS

WHEN Scottish international goalkeeper **Adam Blacklaw** was omitted from Burnley's team late last season, his absence halted a wonderful run of 194 consecutive appearances in League and Cup games, at a total of 268 League outings since his debut in December 1956. His place was taken by **Harry Thomson**, a relative of Everton's Alex Young and a native of Edinburgh, who joined Burnley straight from school. Thomson played in the last eight games of the season, but whether he will become Burnley's regular choice remains to be seen.

There is also keen competition in prospect for the right-back position. England cap **John Angus** was a regular until injury cost him his place last October, after which **Fred Smith** and **Sammy Todd** shared the position. Todd, a former Irish Youth international wing-half from Belfast, is starting his third season as a professional at Turf Moor. Smith, a native of West Sleekburn, joined Burnley on leaving school, and made his League debut two years ago.

The regular half-back line, except when injuries intervened, was **Brian O'Neil**, **John Talbut**, and **Brian Miller**. O'Neil, another of the many north-easterners on the Burnley staff who joined the club straight from school, made his League debut three years ago and has developed into a most consistent player.

Although born near Oxford, Talbut also joined Burnley from the north-east, having been brought up in Durham. His League debut was in December 1958, and he has been a regular choice for the past three seasons. Left-half Miller is one of

only two Burnley-born players on the staff, which he joined ten years ago. His League debut was in February 1956, and he has made 298 League appearances, playing in all three half-back positions and occasionally at full-back.

Last winter inside-right **Andy Lochhead** (21 goals) and centre-forward **Bill Irvine** (22) raced neck and neck for the title of Burnley's leading First Division marksman. Lochhead scored five of his goals in his club's final match — at our expense. A Scot from Renfrewshire, he joined Burnley six years ago, while Irvine, an Irish international from Carrickfergus, has been with them since leaving school.

Most regular choice on the right-wing was Scottish-born **Willie Morgan**, with **Ian Towers** and **John Price** (now Stockport County) mainly alternating at outside-left, where lesser-known players like **Leslie Latchman** and **Ralph Coates** also made occasional appearances.

THEIR MANAGER

HARRY POTTS — Born at Hetton-le-Hole (Durham), he joined Burnley just before the war, and was their top scorer in three of the first four post-war seasons, playing at inside-forward. Was in their 1947 F.A. Cup Final team v. Charlton. Spent six years with Everton before becoming coach to Wolves in 1956. A year later was appointed manager of Shrewsbury Town and took over as Burnley manager in February 1958, succeeding Alan Brown who went to Sunderland.

Gordon Harris, the club's usual choice at inside-left, will be absent today as he started fourteen days' suspension on Monday.

Arthur Bellamy, yet another native of the north-east, is Burnley's general utility forward — last winter he occupied every position in attack except centre-forward. Apart from Irvine and Lochhead, no Burnley player totalled more than four goals last season, and the aggregate of 70 in League matches was the club's lowest since 1956-57, when they scored 56.