

# TALK - BACK

Today's subject in our special series of interviews is

## STEVE SHERWOOD



<b>Career background:</b>	I come from Selby—that's a town near York—and played for East Riding Schools while I was at Selby Secondary and then for West Riding Youth. I was playing for them at Harrogate when Jack Noble, Chelsea's Yorkshire scout, spotted me and sent me down for a trial. I joined Chelsea juniors two seasons ago, signed apprentice in August 1970 and as a full professional this past July.
<b>My sporting family:</b>	I grew up in a sporting atmosphere. My mother ran as a sprinter for Yorkshire, my father played inside-forward for Huddersfield Town and Stockport just after the last war, my brother John is the Olympic hurdler, and his wife Sheila is the long-jumper. I did some sprinting myself at school. At football I played sweeper until I was 13—then our 'keeper got injured, I went in goal for the second half . . . and I've been there ever since.
<b>Biggest surprise of career:</b>	Getting a phone call from Stamford Bridge at ten o'clock on Boxing Day at my home in Selby (where I was spending Christmas) telling me that scout Jack Noble was on his way to pick me up to rush me by road to London because Peter Bonetti and John Phillips were both injured and I was wanted for the match against Ipswich.
<b>Biggest disappointment (1):</b>	Arriving here just too late to play, so David Webb went in goal instead. We'd have been all right if we had not been fogbound in Yorkshire in the early part of the journey. Still, I got my chance at Derby five days later.
<b>My First Division debut:</b>	I was quite nervous last Friday when Dave Sexton said I would be playing next day, and spent New Year's Eve thinking about it. But once I got to bed I was asleep and awoke on Saturday thinking what a great start to my New Year. The lads were very good in the dressing-room before the game and that gave me confidence when I went out. Playing in the First Division was not as difficult as I thought. Once the game was on I found things happening so fast there wasn't time to dwell on it being my first big game. It was a matter of playing by instinct and getting on with it.
<b>Biggest disappointment (2):</b>	Derby's goal that pipped us. It was rotten luck for David Webb—I was going left for Gemmill's shot when the ball clipped Dave's head and went in on the opposite side. He apologised—that's typical of Dave—but I felt more sorry for him than for myself.
<b>"My team" as a boy:</b>	I used to watch Leeds United quite a lot.
<b>Other interests:</b>	I enjoy playing cricket . . . and listening to records (Bread are my favourite group).
<b>Career ambition:</b>	To make a success of the chance Chelsea have given me of a career in football, and to help them win the F.A. Youth Cup this season. I missed Monday's tie against Millwall (to stand by for Tottenham on Wednesday) and a 3-2 win has put us in the last sixteen.