

FRONT COVER SHOT

DAVID WEBB makes a bold effort in the late stages at Wembley with a diving header from Peter Houseman's centre. Tommy Baldwin is the other Chelsea player sprawling in the box. All through the closing minutes we pressed for an equaliser; our effort never wavered, and a minute into injury time Gordon Banks rushed from his line to stop Chris Garland with his final frustrating save of the day.

within a week. Says Paddy: "It wasn't the tackle by Stoke's Mike Pejic that caused the injury but that spongy Wembley turf. My studs caught in it and that's what jarred the ankle. I'm sure it wouldn't have happened on any other pitch at this time of year. I was so disappointed I got in the bath and had a soak for half an hour, and saw only the last 15 minutes of the game."

New date: Because the ban on the use of floodlights, imposed during the recent power crisis, was not lifted until midnight on Wednesday, our First Division fixture away to Nottingham Forest—re-arranged for last Tuesday—was put back to the coming Tuesday (7.30 p.m.). Our home League fixture against Stoke City, originally scheduled for last Saturday, and the away match with Southampton, postponed on February 12, have still to be re-arranged.

Hutch's progress: Ian Hutchinson, who had to return to hospital last month for some minor "tidying up" of the right knee on which he had a cartilage operation last April, had the stitches taken out on Wednesday. With that job out of the way and the broken left leg now doing well, Ian is just about ready to resume outdoor training—following recent weeks of body-work indoors—in his gradual progression towards full fitness.

Hard luck, lads: The Seniors are not alone in their Cup disappointments. On Monday of last week our Youth team were knocked out in the F.A. Youth Cup

quarter-final replay away to Aston Villa. For 90 minutes and then the first period of extra time there was no score; then Villa, with the support of an 11,000 crowd, scored three times. In the first match, played the previous Tuesday afternoon at Stamford Bridge, we led by Mike Brolly's first half goal, but Villa scored a late equaliser to force the replay.

Stewart on loan: Stewart Houston, our Scottish full-back, has joined Brentford on a month's loan, and played his first game for them last Saturday.

Two signed: Two more of our promising apprentices moved up to professional status last month—and it's a family affair because they are cousins. They are left-winger Jim Davis, who comes from Hackney, and centre-back George Price, from Poplar. Both are 17, and Davis is the son of former professional middleweight boxer Jimmy Davis. Jim and George first came to us on Associated Schoolboy forms.

Player of the Year: For the past two seasons John Hollins has been voted Chelsea "Player of the Year" in the poll organised by the Supporters' Club. The award has also been won by three other members of our present side—Peter Bonetti in 1967, Charlie Cooke in 1968 and David Webb in 1969—and six weeks from now the 1971-72 winner will be known. The result will be announced and the "Joe Mears Memorial Trophy" presented at the Player of the Year Dance at Fulham Town Hall on Saturday, April 22 (7.30-11.30 p.m.). Tickets cost 45p (members) and 60p (non-members) and can be obtained from Mr. J. Coombes, 103 Pullborough Road, London, S.W.18, or from the Supporters' Club Shop at 547 Fulham Road, S.W.6. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Chelsea Supporters' Club.

Today's band: For your musical entertainment, we present the Band of the 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, bandmaster Mr. Peter Hannam, B.E.M. They will play for 40 minutes before the match and give a marching display at half-time.