

ABOUT OUR VISITORS

TODAY we attempt to complete a League double against Arsenal for the third successive season — something which Manager Tommy Docherty is particularly eager to see us achieve against his old club. When Arsenal visited Stamford Bridge last February, they had just been knocked out of the F.A. Cup, and this time they are again in the process of some team reorganisation following dismissal from the Cup.

After a promising start to the season, in which they lost only two of their first 12 games, Arsenal suddenly lost form and a third round F.A. Cup defeat at Blackburn resulted in England internationals Joe Baker and George Eastham being dropped.

Arsenal's reshuffled side pulled off a fine 3-1 win at Stoke, drew at home with Burnley and last Saturday, with Baker back on duty, they beat Southampton 3-1 at the Dell in a friendly.

Arsenal now bank increasingly on youth, with possibly six of today's side under 21, none of whom cost more than the original signing on fee. This contrasts sharply with some of the heavy spending on transfers in which the club has been involved in recent years.

New Captain

New skipper Don Howe, the former West Bromwich and England right-back, represents the older end of the age scale, but around him are bright and talented youngsters like former England youth international full-back Peter Storey, deep-lying forward Jon Sammels, big

John Radford, Tom Walley and little England Under-23 winger George Armstrong, who fills a busy, play-anywhere role as both link-man and striker.

Agile Jim Furnell has regained the goal-keeping position and Arsenal have a trio of international half-backs in Frank McLintock and Ian Ure, both Scotland, and Northern Ireland's captain, Terry Neill. David Court can play inside-forward, but has been seen more often at wing-half.

Up front, powerful goalscoring right-winger Alan Skirton, and, of course, Baker, who might have become a Chelsea player three weeks ago, provide the punch.

Newest face to be seen in Arsenal's first-team is 17-year-old England Youth centre-forward Roger Davidson, from Islington. Signed as a professional in December, he made a promising debut as substitute when Baker strained a thigh muscle at Southampton last week-end.

THEIR MANAGER

BILLY WRIGHT joined Arsenal in May 1962, entering the realms of club management after one of the most illustrious playing careers of any international footballer. From the resumption of peacetime soccer in 1946 he was almost permanently present in the England ranks at wing-half and centre-half until the end of season 1958-59, setting up the all-time record of 105 international appearances. Throughout his career in the game he has been associated with only two clubs: Wolves as a player, Arsenal as manager. He shares with Matt Busby (Manchester United) and Sir Stanley Matthews (now manager of Port Vale) the distinction of having been awarded the C.B.E. for his services to soccer.

THEIR GOALSCORERS

League: Baker 13, Radford 7, Skirton 7, Eastham 6, Armstrong 5, Sammels 4, Baldwin 2, McLintock 2, Howe 1, Opponents 2. Total 49.