

OUR VISITORS TODAY

ON several of their previous spells in the First Division Sheffield Wednesday, this afternoon's visitors, have had a hard struggle to retain their place. Now they hope to put an end to the up-and-down existence which earned them the somewhat uncomplimentary tag of football's "yo-yo" team. At least they are holding their own in the highest company this time.

Those who thought that the Wednesday defence would find it hard to prevent some big scores being run up against them have been proved wrong. Indeed it is this often-maligned department of the Yorkshire club's team which has been the most impressive so far.

Last Saturday they defeated West Ham United by the impressive score of 7-0. Wednesday have had only five goals debited against them in nine engagements at Hillsborough, easily the lowest total in the First Division. Of those matches they had won five, drawn two and lost only one.

While their record on away grounds is by no means so impressive, it is considerably better than some. Their 3-1 win at Leeds a fortnight ago was their second as visitors, the other having been by the only goal at Arsenal on the opening day of the campaign. In addition they have drawn 0-0 at Birmingham, which leaves them with seven defeats, none of them by more than a two goals margin.

Wednesday's biggest failing has been lack of striking power in attack. The win at Leeds was only the second time they have managed to find the net more than twice, the other occasion being when they defeated Blackpool 5-0 at Hillsborough in mid-September.

The Leeds match was also notable in another respect, the two goals obtained by **Keith Ellis** being the first "double" registered by any Wednesday player this term, all the other goals having come singly. Those two goals brought Ellis's total to four in five outings, and he has now scored more than the other three players who have done duty as leaders of the attack put together.

The first player to be called upon at centre-forward was **Roy Shiner**, who netted three times in nine outings prior to his transfer to Hull City on November 2nd. Veteran **Redfern Froggatt** had one game there before **George Kirby**, who had been signed from Everton last March,

was given three outings without scoring, after which Ellis was called upon.

Two of the outstanding members of the Wednesday rearguard are goalkeeper **Ron Springett**, who won his first England Cap in the recent game with Ireland, and centre-half **Peter Swan**, also a candidate for representative honours at a higher level than the one appearance he has so far made for the Football League.

Flanking Swan are powerful wing-halves in **Tommy McAnearney** and **Tony Kay**, the latter now fully recovered from a fractured shoulder sustained in the second match of the season.

Full-backs **Peter Johnson** and **Don Megson** provide a combination of experience and youth. Johnson, formerly with Rotherham United, is also a useful stand-in for the attack should the necessity arise. Megson only made his debut in the home game with Burnley on November 14th. He did well enough to keep his place the following week, when, with Johnson fit after missing the previous match through injury, long-serving **Norman Curtis** stood down. Thus Curtis was out of the side for the first time since March, 1958, a run of 67 consecutive League matches.

Springett is, of course, no stranger to London, for he was born in Fulham, and played for Queen's Park Rangers before moving to Hillsborough at a five figure fee in March, 1958.

The most experienced member of the Wednesday front line is **Redfern Froggatt**, who, prior to last week, had made 433 League appearances in the service of his one and only senior club. Despite his years in the game, "Red" is still a top-class inside-forward, as many an opposing player will testify. A fortnight ago, when he was unable to play through injury, the Yorkshire club introduced a newcomer to English football in **Bobby Craig**, whom they had signed from Third Lanark a few days earlier. While naturally still strange in his new surroundings, Craig proved that he will be a distinct asset when he has had time to settle at Hillsborough and to attune himself to the increased pace of the game compared with north of the border.

Now that Craig has been signed competition for first team places is likely to be keener than ever. Other claimants, in addition to Froggatt, Craig and **John Fantham**, the regular inside-left, include

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