

FOCUS

on our

VISITORS

WEST HAM UNITED's season has been one of sharp contrasts. They began it with three League defeats and did not score a goal in the first four matches, but then struck splendid form with a run in which they lost only one of 12 First Division games.

In the League Cup they were within a stride of meeting us at Wembley—Stoke eventually beat them after a four-match marathon in the semi-final. So near, so far . . . and with a better return from their "out" matches Ron Greenwood's men would be coming here today considerably higher than mid-table.

But the fact that they have taken only one point from their last five away fixtures should not be allowed to hide a warning. The two games West Ham have won as visitors were both in London—Crystal Palace (3-0) and Tottenham (1-0). So they have yet to drop a point or concede a goal on other London grounds. Indeed, home and away, they are unbeaten in local "derbies" this season.

THEIR PLAYERS

BOBBY FERGUSON: Joined West Ham from Kilmarnock in May 1967 at what is still Britain's record fee for a goalkeeper, £65,000. A Scottish International (seven caps), he has been in particularly fine form this season. Born Ardrossan. 5 ft. 10½ in., 11 st. 11 lb.

JOHN McDOWELL: Has filled the right-back regularly since Billy Bonds moved into midfield. An England Youth International, he has missed only one first-team match this season. Born East Ham. 5 ft. 9 in., 11 st. 9½ lb.

FRANK LAMPARD: England Under-23 and former Youth International left-back who made his League debut in November 1967. Four years ago suffered a broken leg but missed only one League match last winter and was ever-present this term until missing Tuesday's match at Coventry because of England Under-23 commitments. Born West Ham. 5 ft. 10 in., 12 st. 11 lb.

BILLY BONDS: This bold determined player successfully switched from full-back to midfield this season. A £50,000 signing from Charlton in May 1967—and holder of two England Under-23 caps—he has missed only five League games in the past three seasons. Born Woolwich. 6 ft. 0½ in., 12 st. 10 lb.

TOMMY TAYLOR: Stylish centre-back, he has developed to top class in two seasons since his £78,000 transfer from Orient in October 1970. Was an England Schoolboy and Youth cap and has been ever-present for West Ham this season. Born Hornchurch. 6 ft., 12 st.

BOBBY MOORE: World-class defender and captain of West Ham and England (92 caps). Led England to victory in the 1966 World Cup and in recognition was awarded the O.B.E. Highlights in

500 club appearances were to captain West Ham to triumph in F.A. Cup (1964) and European Cup-Winners' Cup (1965). Born Barking. 6 ft., 12 st. 13 lb.

HARRY REDKNAPP: Fast, tricky winger now approaching his 200th senior game for West Ham. In 1963-64 helped England win the International Youth tournament. Born Poplar. 5 ft. 10 in., 11 st. 4 lb.

CLYDE BEST: This powerfully built raider is the Club's top scorer (22 goals) and has been a revelation this season. Signed professional for West Ham in April 1969 and made League debut four months later against Arsenal. Bermuda International. Born Bermuda. 6 ft. 2 in., 13 st.

GEOFF HURST: England striker with 48 caps, and the only player to score a World Cup Final hat-trick. West Ham's top scorer for the last six seasons. Began League career in February 1960 and is now nearing his 400th League appearance. Born Ashton-under-Lyne. 5 ft. 11½ in., 12 st. 9 lb.

TREVOR BROOKING: Elegant midfield player who gained his first England Under-23 cap against Switzerland this season. Previously a Schoolboy and Youth International. Professional at Upton Park since May 1966. Qualified F.A. Coach. Born Ilford. 6 ft. 0½ in., 12 st. 10 lb.

BRYAN ROBSON: Cost West Ham their record fee of £120,000 when signed from Newcastle in February 1971. Plays midfield-striker role and has two England Under-23 caps. Born Sunderland. 5 ft. 8 in., 11 st. 8 lb.

PAUL HEFFER: Tall, strong defender who began with West Ham as an amateur, turning professional in August 1965. At the start of this season had made 15 senior appearances. Born Upton Park. 6 ft. 2 in., 12 st. 11 lb.

PAT HOLLAND: A winger aged 21, he had his first League outing of the season against Nott'm. Forest last Saturday. Signed professional in April 1969 and made League debut v. Arsenal the same day. Born Poplar. 5 ft. 8 in., 11 st. 11 lb.



Club address:
Boleyn Ground,
Green Street,
London, E.13

OFFICIALS

Chairman: MR. REG. PRATT.
Secretary: MR. EDDIE CHAPMAN.
Manager: MR. RON GREENWOOD.
Assistant-Manager: MR. JOHN LYALL.
Physiotherapist: MR. ROB JENKINS.
Captain: BOBBY MOORE.

HONOURS

European Cup-Winners' Cup 1965.
F.A. Cup Winners 1964.
Div. II Champions 1958.