

SERIOUSLY football The NO.1 pullout that scores EVERY time

I'll be a footballer for 10 to 15 years. I hope to be a human for about 70 or so..

says West Brom's ROMAINE SAWYERS

BAGGS OF CLASS: Albion's Sawyers take on Manchester United star Bruno Fernandes

ROMAINE SAWYERS reckons **Marcus Rashford** is inspiring a new generation of footballers to help communities.

by **JAMES NURSEY**

When there are people sitting on the fence or not doing it, people like Rashford will make them think, "I need to get up and do my part."

"It is not about awards or accolades. The real trophy is the child that comes back the next day or the child that says thank you."

"You can change somebody's day and week and that can have a domino effect and continue.

"In football most of the work is done on the grass but other skills have been embedded in me from an early age.

"Whenever I come here I am not 'Romaine from West Brom, I am Diane's son, it humbles me."

But despite Sawyers' kind, generous nature, Sheffield United, tonight's visitors to relegation rivals West Brom, should not expect to find him a soft touch.

The Baggies star said: "If I lose on a Saturday I will be grumpy until Wednesday. But within that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I can put another face on and realise there is another objective."

Under Diane's leadership with colleague Lincoln Moses MBE, their hub is home for 18 junior and adults football teams called Continental Star.

Sawyers has previously sorted all the teams out with strips and even bought managers' coats for all the bosses.

But the set-up's most important goal is changing lives, and sometimes even preserving them too.

Diane, who has a memorial wall at the hub, said: "We have saved some lives and helped in one way or another. Hopefully we can be here to help the next person through the door."



TOP TEAMS: With mum Diane and celebrating promotion to the Premier League



Blades can sharpen up

by **DAVID ANDERSON**
SHEFFIELD UNITED manager **Chris Wilder** is taking inspiration from the Blades' great escape 30 years ago.

Wilder was part of Dave Bassett's side who failed to win any of their first 16 Division One games in 1990 and were bottom at Christmas with just four points.

But they reeled off seven straight wins to finish 13th.

He speaks regularly to Bassett and his old manager has reminded him of that feat as Wilder's side sit bottom of the table ahead of their clash with West Brom tonight.

Wilder said: "We didn't get our first win until Nottingham Forest over Christmas and I played in that game. A couple of wins over Christmas and then a fabulous run into the New Year.

"There's always a chance to buck the stats and we still believe we can turn things around."

Wilder also took another swipe at Jurgen Klopp over the partial return of fans to some clubs.

Last week he accused Klopp of being "selfish" over his demands for the return of five substitutes because it would help Liverpool.

And the Blades boss has taken aim again at the German for not calling for supporters to be allowed back into all Premier League grounds.

"He's a world-class manager and a world-class politician who cares about Liverpool," he said. "That's all he cares about."

"He was never going to say, 'What about Sheffield United getting their fans back in or anybody else?'"

"Jurgen isn't going to say, 'It's not right that they can have fans and Sheffield United, Leeds, Manchester and all the rest of the north are not allowed in'."

"It was funny looking at that map. I think us in the north were fully expecting to be in the old Tier 3, as they kindly put us in."

Bilic sees a bright side

by **DAVE ARMITAGE**
SLAVEN BILIC says there are no black clouds over West Brom as they go into the biggest relegation dogfight of the season.

Bilic's second-bottom Baggies are preparing for battle with bottom club Sheffield United and he insists: "We're ready!"

Both sides are still chasing their first wins of the season and Bilic said: "If anyone thinks the atmosphere here is dark and miserable, let me tell them, it's anything but."

"We've been in every game. It's not as if we're miles from it."

"Are we ready? Yes. We're ready and we want to do it. We're in a good mood - not miserable."

He can only dream about the effect three points would have but added: "It's the same situation for them and as much as it sounds like a cliché, it is more than three points in this situation."

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Premier League TEAMTALK

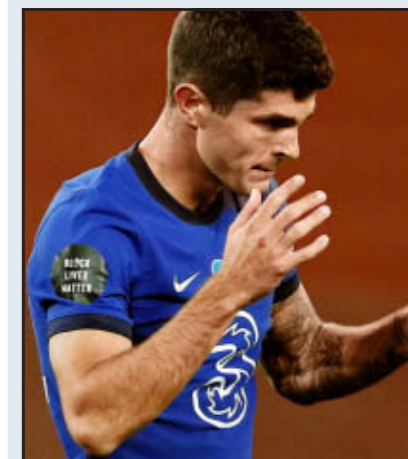
BRIGHTON v LIVERPOOL

BRIGHTON will be without **Tariq Lamptey** (ban) following the defender's red card at Villa. Ex-Reds midfielder **Adam Lallana** (right) is being assessed, **Solly March** (ankle) is expected to be available and the fit-again **Leandro Trossard** could make his return. **Davy Propper** will return from illness. **LIVERPOOL** captain **Jordan Henderson** (thigh) could return, but boss **Jurgen Klopp** will still be without **Naby Keita** (hamstring), **Thiago Alcantara** (knee), **Xherdan Shaqiri** (muscle), **Trent Alexander-Arnold** (calf), **Virgil van Dijk** and **Joe Gomez** (both knee). **Last season:** Brighton 1 Liverpool 3. **Referee:** Stuart Attwell.



EVERTON v LEEDS

EVERTON left-back **Lucas Digne** is facing up to three months out with an ankle injury. Right-back **Seamus Coleman** (hamstring) is still not fit, while long-time absentee **Jean-Philippe Gbamin** (Achilles) remains a couple of weeks away from being in contention. **LEEDS** head coach **Marcelo Bielsa** is expected to choose from an unchanged squad, with no new injury concerns. Midfielder **Pablo Hernandez** (muscle) remains sidelined and defender **Diego Llorente** (groin) is still not in contention to make his club debut. Club record signing **Rodrigo** is pushing for a recall having recovered from coronavirus. **Last season:** NA. **Referee:** Chris Kavanagh.



TOMORROW ARSENAL v WOLVES

ARSENAL will be without the suspended **Nicolas Pepe** after he was sent off in last weekend's draw at Leeds. Midfielder **Thomas Partey** is also unlikely to feature due to a thigh problem, but **William Calaf** is hoping to be available, while both **Mohamed Elneny** and **Sead Kolasinac** are in contention following positive Covid-19 tests. **CAPTAIN** **Conor Coady** (self-isolation) will return to the Wolves squad after missing his first league game in over three years. **Romain Saiss** is out having tested positive for Covid-19. **Last season:** Arsenal 1 Wolves 1. **Referee:** Michael Oliver.

CHELSEA v TOTTENHAM

CHRISTIAN PULISIC (left) could return for Chelsea having beaten his latest hamstring issue. **Kai Havertz** is working back to full sharpness having completed his self-isolation after testing positive for Covid-19. **TOTTENHAM** will be without centre-back **Toby Alderweireld** after he suffered a groin injury during last weekend's 2-0 win over Manchester City, so Welsh defender **Joe Rodon** could be given a full debut. **Captain Hugo Lloris**, **Giovani Lo Celso** and **Steven Bergwijn** are expected to return to the squad. **Last season:** Chelsea 2 Tottenham 1. **Referee:** Paul Tierney.

MAN CITY v BURNLEY

CITY boss **Pep Guardiola** finally has a fully-fit squad to choose from, now that **Nathan Ake** has recovered from a hamstring injury. **Sergio Aguero**, **Kevin De Bruyne**, **Kyle Walker**, **Aymeric Laporte**, **Ferran Torres** and **Riyad Mahrez** could all be brought back into the side. **BAILEY PEACOCK-FARRELL** could make his long-awaited league debut for Burnley, with **Nick Pope** a doubt with a head injury. **Robbie Brady** and **Dale Stephens** (both hamstring) are out. **Last season:** Man City 5 Burnley 0. **Referee:** Lee Mason.

SOUTHAMPTON v MAN UNITED

DANNY INGS is still sidelined for Southampton with a knee injury, along with **Nathan Redmond** (hamstring). **Theo Walcott** (below) should start again despite having a broken bone in his wrist. **PAUL POGBA** remains highly doubtful for United with an unspecified injury, while **Scott McTominay** is also expected to miss out. **Marcus Rashford**, **Victor Lindelof** and **Aaron Wan-Bissaka** are all expected to be fit after recent knocks. **Edinson Cavani** could start in place of **Anthony Martial** up top. **Last season:** Southampton 1 Man Utd 1. **Referee:** Jonathan Moss.

ALBION WEST BROM v SHEFF UNITED

SLAVEN BILIC is sweating on the fitness of one of his players. **Jake Livermore** and **Kieran Gibbs** contracted coronavirus earlier this month and while **Bilic** refused to say who, one is still feeling unwell despite testing negative on Monday. **Sam Field** (knee) could be included. **THE Blades**, the only team below the Baggies in the table, look set to be boosted by the return of **Lys Mousset** (toe). **Defender Enda Stevens** and one other player, who manager **Chris Wilder** declined to name, are injury concerns for the visitors. **Last season:** NA. **Referee:** Mike Dean.

