

MAIL SPORT

IF IT'S YOUR SPORT... IT'S IN THE MAIL

Maclean roars back without the padding!

MOSELEY centre Ruari Maclean completes a remarkable league comeback tomorrow against former club Gloucester — thanks to his performance in a social cricket match.

The Scotland B international was set to quit the game in the summer after being dogged by injury since moving to the Reddings last season.

But he was persuaded to carry on by coach Derek



Rugby

By COLIN TATTUM

Nutt, who cajoled Maclean into an about turn at the club's annual social cricket match against Moseley Ashfield.

He said: "It is tremendous for Ruari to be back in the frame again."

"He was seriously considering packing it all in over the summer, he was that

frustrated at being injured.

"But at the cricket game he had quite a strenuous time keeping wicket and batting, and I pointed out that it proved he could still stand up to rigorous activity."

"He agreed to carry on training, and took it step

by step. But he is fine now, and we are delighted that things have worked out."

Moseley could not have asked for a harder opening Courage National division one fixture tomorrow against Gloucester who finished runners-up in both league and cup last season.

Moseley (v Gloucester, Kingsholm 3pm): 8 Parry, 1 Hinchey, 8 Maclean, C Arundel, D Spiller, M Hardcastle, B Fenley, H Linnell, T Beddow, N Lyman, S Taylor, S Lloyd, B Harcourt, C Raymond, S Masters.



RUARI MACLEAN back in the frame

Star guest Mark



Speedway

CRADLEY went close to pulling off a shock win in last night's Sunbrite British League match at Bradford.

They were beaten 47-43 but only after a strong fight against a team with an unbeaten home league record stretching back 13 matches.

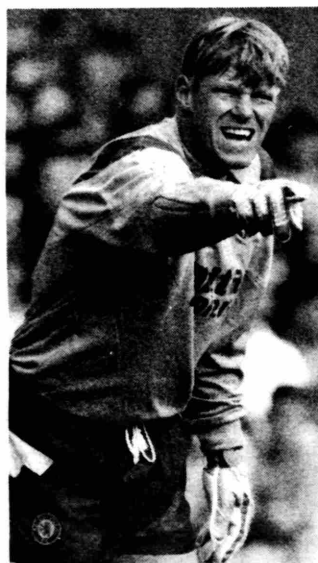
The Heathens owed much to one of their three guest riders, Mark Loram, who won his first three races and dropped only one point to the opposition in his five rides.

Fortune

With reserve Gert Handberg and skipper Alan Grahame also coping well with a rain-soaked track, Cradley kept up the pressure on Bradford and were still in with a chance of winning when they went into heat 11 with the scores level at 30-30.

But then a stroke of ill luck left them trailing. After leading home pair Glenn Doyle and Gary Havelock into the final lap, Greg Hancock lost control and fell heavily. Bradford made the most of their good fortune to take a 5-1 and a lead which they never lost after that.

TAYLOR - MADE CALL-UP FOR SPINK



Football

SQUAD

Woods (Rangers), Seaman (Arsenal), Martyn (Crystal Palace), Stevens (Rangers), Dixon (Arsenal), Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Derigo (Chelsea), Parker (QPR), Walker (Nottingham Forest), Wright (Derby), Hodge (Nottingham Forest), Steven (Rangers), Webb (Manchester United), Gascoigne (Tottenham), McMahon (Liverpool), PLATT (Aston Villa), Barnes (Liverpool), Waddie (Marselles), Linaker (Tottenham), Beardsley (Liverpool), BULL (Wolves), Wright (Crystal Palace).

Standby players: SPINK (Aston Villa), Adams (Arsenal), Wise (Chelsea), Clough (Nottingham Forest).

NIGEL SPINK has ended a seven-year spell in the international wilderness — thanks to former Villa boss Graham Taylor.

The new England manager has rewarded Spink for his sparkling contribution to last season's League Championships challenge by naming him as the stand-by goalkeeper for the European Championship match against Poland on October 16.

Spink, who last played for England as a substitute in Australia in 1983, gets the nod ahead of Chelsea's Dave Beasant.

The 32-year-old Spink becomes Villa's fourth player picked for England international recognition.

David Platt is an automatic selection after his World Cup exploits and current goal-scoring form, while Ian Olney and Mark Blake are named in the Under-21 squad.

Albion defender Paul Raven also features in the Under 21 set-up as one of the four stand-by players.

Taylor makes two changes from the senior squad named for last month's win over Hungary.

Palace's Ian Wright comes in to the 22 and Forest's Steve Hodge returns.

Ward poser for Chambers

By COLIN STONER

STOURBRIDGE boss John Chambers will wait until an hour before kick-off before deciding who will be given the job of shackling former England ace Peter Ward at Hednesford tomorrow.

The match will be one of the most remarkable ever played at Cross Keys — for the teams will be chasing a

place in the third round of the Allbright Bitter WELSH CUP second round tie.

Ward, the former Brighton and Forest striker, has returned to Britain after playing in America for Baltimore and Hednesford boss

John Baldwin is set to give him his debut tomorrow after completing his international clearance.

DUDLEY TOWN, who take on Grantham at home, have been boosted by goalkeeper Kevin Williams' decision to turn down an approach from his former club, Halesowen Town.

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Indigestion for Lendl



Tennis

IVAN LENDL, upset by caterers supplying court-side boxes, repeatedly stopped play to complain and angered his beaten opponent Scott Davis in the Australian indoor tournament at Sydney.

Lendl lost a set for the second successive match in a stumbling third round performance laced with bad humour as he ousted the American 7-6 4-6 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals.

In contrast, world number one Stefan Edberg and second seed Boris Becker sailed into the last eight.

Edberg beat Mark Kratzmann 6-2 7-6 in an untruffled display, while Becker dispatched New Zealand's Kelly Evernden 6-4 6-3.

Lendl will meet Peter Lundgren after the Swede ousted American sixth seed Michael Chang 6-2 6-4 with fine pressure tennis.

BIG SIX ACTION

This week's soccer tipster is Peter Smith of Maytree Close, Chelmsley Wood. He gets six free £1 bets on the correct scores

(The odds in brackets are those offered on the Ladbrokes fixed odds coupon)

Villa v Sunderland

Assuming that Villa have shaken off any leg-weariness from their European trip they should be too experienced for the First Division new boys.

If they are to make any impression on Kenny Dalglish's pace-setting Liverpool they will have to start stringing together a whole series of wins.

It's difficult to see who is going to get the better of Liverpool in what is already emerging as a one-horse race unless Villa get their act together again.

- IAN WILLIAMS: 2-0..... (13-2)
- PETER SMITH: 2-0..... (13-2)

Reading v Blues

Reading are rated by many as the dark horses in the Third Division championship race and they have made significant strides this season.

They play a direct game, getting the ball up front quickly to strikers Trevor Senior and Craig Maskell. It could be a cat and mouse contest and, if Blues are to win, they must take their chances.

- COLIN TATTUM: 1-1.... (11-2)
- PETER SMITH: 1-2..... (10-1)

Millwall v Albion

Trying to end Millwall's unbeaten record in front of a partisan crowd may just be too tall an order for Albion.

Brian Talbot's men will want to bounce back after their revival took a surprise knock at Plymouth in mid-week, but the in-form Londoners should take the honours in a close match.

- GRAHAM HILL: 2-1..... (8-1)
- PETER SMITH: 1-1..... (11-2)

Wolves v Bristol City

Seven points from the last nine, including two successive home wins, is promotion form but there are still grumblings of discontent around Molineux.

Wolves' performances still lack conviction but while that man Bull thrives opponents will suffer. City will be looking to bounce back after their defeat at Leicester and I fancy a stalemate.

- STEVE TUDGAY: 1-1.... (11-2)
- PETER SMITH: 2-1..... (8-1)

Walsall v Carlisle

With a couple of very tough away matches to come, Walsall badly need to win this one and continue their climb away from the lower regions.

The 3-0 midweek victory over Scunthorpe was a confidence-booster and the Saddlers should pip Carlisle.

- PAUL MARSTON: 2-1.... (8-1)
- PETER SMITH: 2-0..... (9-1)

Man City v Coventry

THE David Speedie saga has surprisingly not affected the Sky Blues' performances but they will have to be at their very best to get a result from Howard Kendall's rejuvenated side.

Steve Livingstone has led Coventry to a goal rush in the last two matches but the Manchester men's power at Maine Road means they should sneak it.

- NEIL WHITE: 2-1..... (11-1)
- PETER SMITH: 3-1..... (8-1)

Last week

Week four soccer tipster Les Paintain, from Castle Vale, became the first to draw a blank with his predictions but *Evening Mail* chief soccer writer Ian Willars landed an 8-1 success with Spurs' 2-1 win over Villa.

That put the writers' *Evening Mail* Christmas Tree fund up to £37.50 with the tipsters having accumulated £28.50.