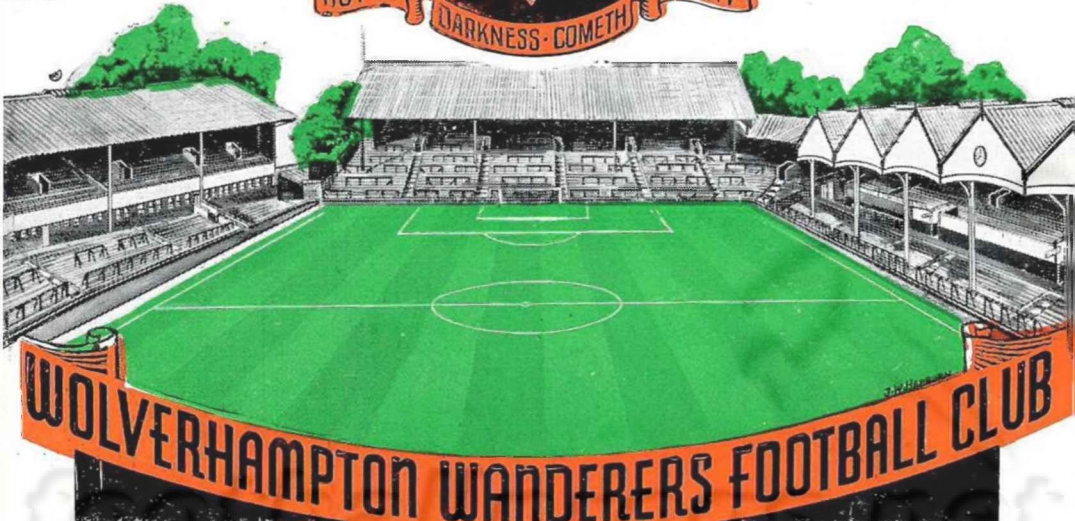


SEASON

1954-55



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Official Programme

6^D

WOLVES

6^D

v.

SPARTAK



TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 16th.



WELCOME TO ENGLAND

N. SIMONYAN, captain and centre forward of the Spartak team, welcomed by Mr. J. JOYCE, director of Arsenal F.C. (left), on arrival at London Airport.

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club (1923) Limited

MOLINEUX GROUNDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

SEASON 1954-55

Chairman: J. S. BAKER, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: A. H. OAKLEY, Esq., J.P.

J. EVANS, Esq. C. H. HUNTER, Esq. J. H. MARSHALL, Esq.

Manager: STANLEY CULLIS

Secretary: JOHN T. HOWLEY

Telephone: 24063/4.

Telegrams: "Wanderers" Wolverhampton

NOTES BY "WANDERER"

It is here, the biggest special occasion in the history of our club, and we welcome in the name of Wolves and Wolverhampton, distinguished and accomplished opponents from far away Moscow, the sparkling Spartak. We have had foreign teams here before; we have seen the international sides and the inter-league but none of those previous visitors, no matter what their status, have come to us with quite such a dramatic background as our new friends from the Soviet Union.

In Russia, we are told, soccer is a comparatively young game, but it seems the Russians have learned mighty quickly and are well able to come to this, the home of soccer, and challenge with a good deal of confidence the best in the land.

That is a good thing, the better the team the more we, as football lovers, like to see them. If they can teach us something we are willing to learn.

IT ALL BEGAN WITH DYNAMO

UNTIL Moscow Dynamo (to whom, by the way, Spartak are current Russian League runners-up) came here in 1945 we had not paid much attention to Russian football. But we soon learned we had been making a mistake for here was something new and, so far as Dynamo were concerned, something appropriately dynamic.

They came, they saw and nearly conquered, only Chelsea and Rangers holding them to a draw. Since then there have been no opportunities to see the development of Soviet Soccer. Some of us think that a pity, but we had only to be patient to await their emergence once again.

Now they have begun to join the other nations in a Soccer exchange and they have proved themselves well nigh masters of their craft.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME

As a club we are all in favour of an exchange of visits between clubs of different nationalities, and we can justly claim we have played our part in fostering good relations in the international soccer field.

We have only in recent years broken new ground and, we feel, done valuable work in taking a team to South Africa. We have sent teams to Belgium, Holland and Austria and earlier this year we were able to make many friends in Denmark.

In return we have been able to welcome to Wolverhampton football friends (for that is what they now are) from South Africa, South America, Austria and Israel. For the opportunity to do this we have in some measure to thank our floodlighting system and some remarkably good fortune with regard to the weather.

HERE COMES THE CLIMAX

NOW, to add to the list, come Spartak whom we hope to add to our friends in soccer. We may even have the opportunity of paying them a reciprocal visit at some future date. If this is possible, we shall do our best to uphold all the best English football and sporting traditions.

That is what we aim to do tonight. We shall give our visitors a good game; we shall do our best to win and whatever the outcome we hope to be able to look back on this night as one of the really great highlights in the long history of our club.

Spartak are young in soccer; we are old, but it is because we both have the best interests of the game at heart that they are Russian runners-up and we are English champions.

Let us see that tonight's game is worthy of our respective positions.

IF THERE ARE STRANGERS!

AMONG the large crowd who will see tonight's game may be those who are seeing our floodlighting system for the first time. For them we have a welcome and a hope that they may be so impressed by what they see that they will go away as further champions of the cause of "floodlight for the special occasion."

In our view these lights have been more than justified, and we hope that tonight's game with our Russian friends is but one more in a long and growing list of outstanding games which would not be possible without the aid of the Molineux lights.

Englishmen Helped Start Soccer in Russia

ORGANISED football in Russia is a young sport in comparison with English Soccer. St. Petersburg, or Leningrad as it is now known, cradled the Russian game and back at the turn of the century there was a league with two English teams, F.C. Nevsky and F. C. Neva. A half-German club, F.C. Victoria, and three Russian teams, F.C. National, F.C. Sport and F.C. Mercur providing the locals with excitement.

Moscow at that time was not so soccer-minded. League matches were played on Sunday afternoons with an admission fee in copecks, amounting to sixpence of our money.

In 1903 real progress was made when V. Stieble, a keen footballer and an undergraduate of the St. Petersburg Gymnasium College, together with another enthusiast named B. Bratoluboff, introduced soccer to the colleges. A newspaper proprietor, Boris Souvorin, gave a cup for competition to the colleges and interest grew.

The scale of games became ever wider. In 1908 came inter-city games and in 1912 Russian football was really put on the map when a team was sent to the Olympic Games at Stockholm.

BEGAN ON THE BARRACK SQUARE

THE First World War stopped big football but by then the Russians had the liking for soccer in their blood and a ball was kicked about on winter Sunday afternoons in every available barrack square.

The Soviet Government have fostered the love of Russians for the game. After the First World War a Commissariat for Physical Culture was formed and from that time football became a national sport in the U.S.S.R. Sport, and football in particular, has a place in the curriculum of all the Industrial Schools of the Soviet Union.

Promising players graduate through their Sport Societies to the first teams of the noted clubs like Spartak and Moscow Dynamo.

DYNAMO VISIT WAS EYE-OPENER

DYNAMO, after the Second World War, opened the eyes of British soccer followers to the high standard attained by the Russians when on their memorable tour here in the Winter of 1945. They drew with Chelsea and Glasgow Rangers and beat Cardiff and a strange-looking Arsenal team, with a tour goal-average of 19 goals against nine.

The game with Arsenal, played in fog on the Tottenham ground—Highbury was not available because of defence requirements—ended in a disputed 4-3 win for the Russians, but there was no doubt about the quality of their football.

It is up-to-date history that Arsenal had further proof of the calibre of Soviet Soccer when Dynamo, in the long awaited return match in Moscow, beat Arsenal 5-0. Dynamo won the Soviet League 1954 Championship just finished and Spartak were runners-up.

INTRODUCING OUR VISITORS

SALIENT FACTS ABOUT SPARTAK

TTEAM of the Soviet Producers' Co-Operative Movement, Moscow Spartak have been in existence only since 1922, but have won the Soviet League Championship five times and the National Cup on a similar number of occasions.

Their proud record of National successes is:

League Championship:

1936, 1938, 1939, 1952, 1953.

National Cup:

1935, 1939, 1946, 1947, 1950.

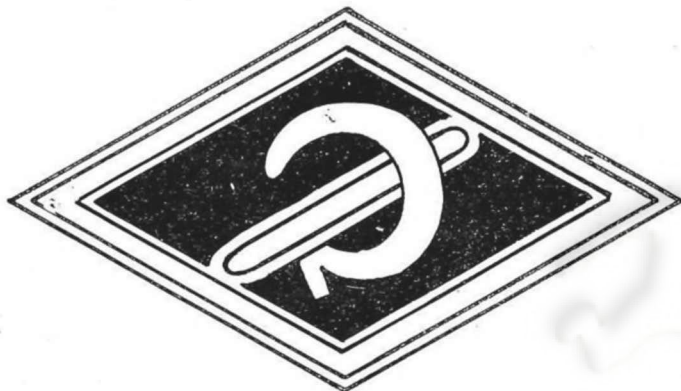
Championship and Cup:

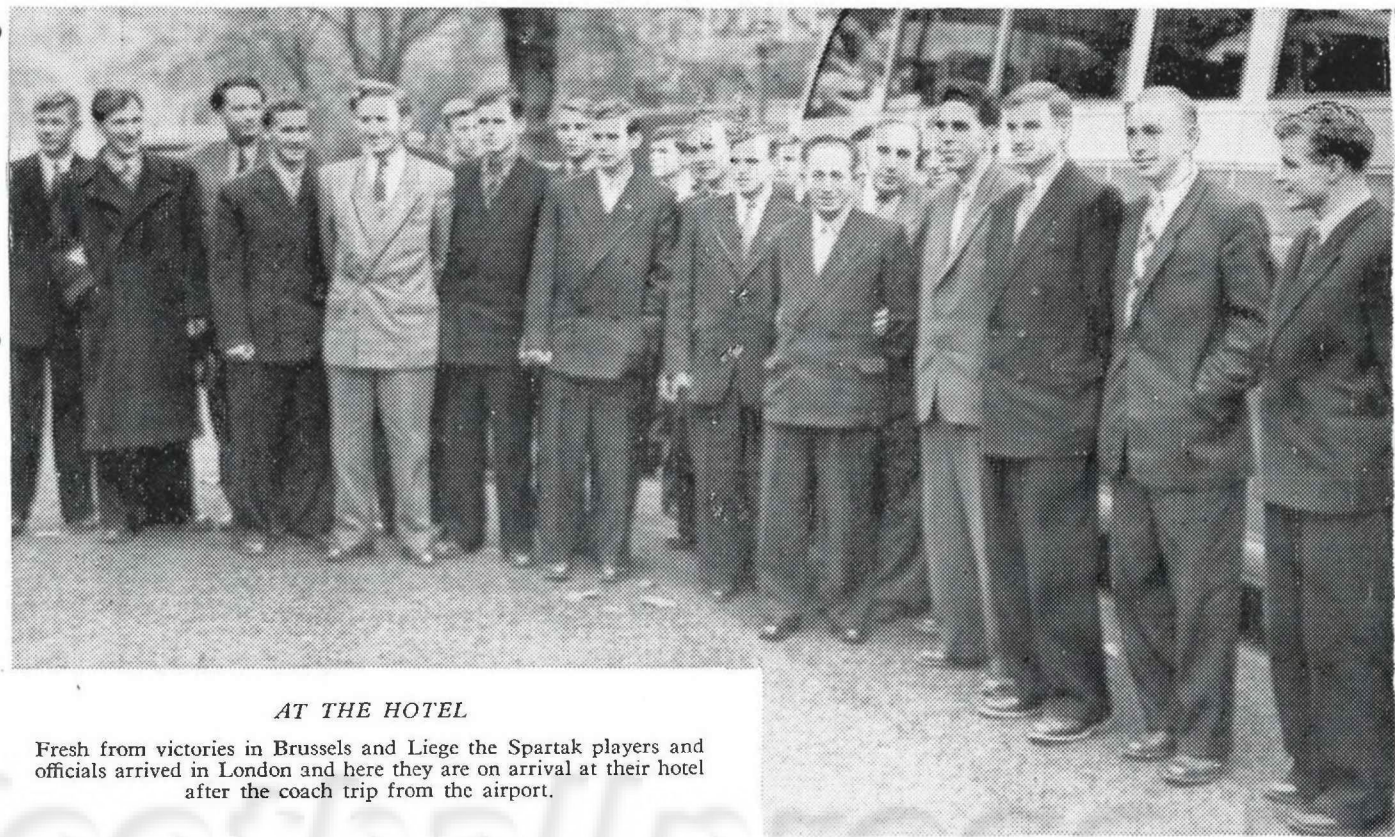
1939.

In the past season, which has just finished, Spartak finished second to Moscow Dynamo in the League Championship and reached the quarter-finals of the Cup.

TOUR SUCCESSES

They have supplied many players to the U.S.S.R. International side, and have won all their six games against foreign clubs this year as follows: in Sweden: beat Jurgorden 5-0 and Malmo 2-0. In Moscow: beat Norway 6-2 and Gironda, of France, 3-2. In Belgium: beat Anderlecht 7-0 and Liege 5-2.





AT THE HOTEL

Fresh from victories in Brussels and Liege the Spartak players and officials arrived in London and here they are on arrival at their hotel after the coach trip from the airport.

‘Inside’ Information on the Wolves

NO souvenir of a special occasion like this would be complete without a reference to the Wolves players who, by taking part, help to write another chapter in our long club history. Here then are brief sketches of them which may revive fading memories in the years to come when you can produce your programme and say “I was there.”

Meet goalkeeper **BERT WILLIAMS**, blonde, athletic and Bradley-born, who “kept” for Walsall before Wolves and then held at bay the might of Italy in London and secured an England place which he held in 18 full internationals.

Then to the regular backs, South African **EDDIE STUART** and another Bradley product, erstwhile centre-half, **BILL SHORTHOUSE**. Stuart came here from Johannesburg, had a game at centre-forward, and one at centre-half. Nearly died of an obscure tropical disease but recovered to become a good club full-back. Shorthouse was also a centre-half (almost an international) but he made the switch to back, and a good job of it. He has been a Wolves player since he was a youth.

There are those who regard our half-back line as the best in British club football. We think they are good and here they are. On the right is big **BILL SLATER**, former amateur international and a Blackpool cup finalist, who turned professional after joining the staff of Birmingham University. Has now won a full cap. His opposite number on the left is Yorkshireman **RON FLOWERS**, who came through our Wath Wanderers nursery to Molineux and then through the junior teams to the first. Promises to have a fine future.

Between them at centre-half is the man who has been described as “the greatest ornament the game has ever had,” **BILLY WRIGHT**, England and club captain, who is something more than an ornament on the field. A great player, a great clubman and possessor of more England caps than any other player past or present.

And so to the forwards.

On the right wing we have the familiar and famous figure of wee **JOHNNY HANCOCKS**. This little fellow packs one of the most powerful shots in football. He too was at Walsall and has played for England, on both wings. And he is Wolves’ best ever wing forward goal-getter.

Next to him is **PETER BROADBENT**, one of football’s promising young men. An England Intermediate player he left the pits in his native Kent to take up football and came to Molineux at 17 by way of Dover and Brentford.

In the centre is another Wath product, Yorkshireman **ROY SWINBOURNE**, a lionhearted player, who has often hovered on the fringe of the international side and has been in everything a first rate clubman.

Then comes **DENNIS WILSHAW**, studious schoolmaster from the Potteries, who came back from a spell with Walsall to make a hat-trick League debut and get successively into the England “B” and full international sides. Highest scorer in the championship team, and a World Cup player.

Finally, on the left wing, **LESLIE SMITH**, the man who has to play harder for a first team place than any other man on the books. A staunch reserve this Halesowen-born bundle of energy gives everything to every match. What more can we ask?

But these may not be the men finally to meet Spartak, so we have to mention one or two others. **ROY PRITCHARD**, for instance, steady full-back who was once a free scoring schoolboy right winger; **EDWIN CLAMP**, schoolboy international; **NORMAN DEELEY**, another schoolboy international from nearby Wednesbury in the “little but good” class; and **JIMMY MULLEN**, one of the most famous postwar names in the Wolves’ story, a Geordie who played for England as boy and man, and has given as staunch service to his club as any player ever to wear the colours.

These then, are the men who hold the prestige of Wolves in their hands tonight. Good luck to them, for it goes without saying they will give all they’ve got.

WOLVES

Colours: Old Gold, black shorts.

KICK-OFF
7.30 P.M.

LEFT



WILLIAMS

RIGHT



3
SHORHOUSE



2
STUART



6
FLOWERS



5
WRIGHT
(CAPTAIN)



4
SLATER



11

SMITH



10

WILSHAW



9

SWINBOURNE



8

BROADBENT



7

HANCOCKS

Referee—

B. M. GRIFFITHS
(Newport)

SPARTAK

Colours: Red with white half hoop,
white shorts



7

TATOUCHINE



5

PARCHINE



2

TIGHTCHENKO

RIGHT



8

PARAMONOV



9

SIMONIAN
(CAPTAIN)



3

BACHACKINE



PIRAEV



4

SEDOV

LEFT



10

DEMENTIEV



6

NETTO

Linesman—Red Flag

Rev. S. V. DAVIS
(Cheltenham)

Linesman—Yellow Flag

R. H. WINDLE
(Chesterfield)



11

ILINE

They give Sparkle to the Spartak

WHO are these Spartaks, of whom so much has been said and written about since they set foot in this country only little more than a week ago? Most of them are Masters of Sport—an honoured designation in Russia—and six of them indeed lay title to the greatest claim of all—Honoured Masters of Sport.

Two of the latter are the trainers. VASILY SKOLOV, the senior, born in 1912, did not take to football until he was 17, but from 1938 until 1951 he was automatic choice at centre-half for Spartak and for most of the time captained the side. On his retirement he became senior trainer, a post he has held for the past three years. He is assisted by ABRAM GANGULOV, another Honoured Master. He is 12 years older than Skolov and played for a team in the Northern Caucasus from 1925-30 before forsaking the field for the trainer's bench. Has trained Spartak since 1949.

There are two goalkeepers in this trip—VLADISLAV TUCHKUS and MICHAEL PIRAYEV, both Masters of Sport. The former, born in 1932, is a typesetter by profession, and has been playing football for nine years. This, however, is his first season for Spartak. Pirayev, born in 1924, is a driver and, like Tuchkus, is a comparative newcomer to the Spartak club, whom he joined in 1953.

NICKOLAI TISHCHENKO and YRUY SEDOV are the first choice right and left backs respectively. Both are Masters of Sport. Tishchenko, born in 1926, is the elder by three years. Has spent half of his playing career to date—eight years—with Spartak and is a member of the U.S.S.R. and Moscow representative teams. Is a technician. Sedov, a student, has spent most of his playing days with Spartak.

Another newcomer to Spartak is MECHELAU SILITSKY, centre-half, who was born in 1925. A mechanic by profession, he joined Spartak only recently but has been in the game for 15 years. Right half ALEXEI PARAMONOV is an Honoured Master of Sport and, like Tishchenko has played for Moscow and his country. Has been playing for Spartak since 1947 but it was not until this year that he dropped back to the half-back line after a long spell as a forward.

Now meet IGOR NETTO, left-half, Honoured Master of Sport and captain of Russia's International XI. Born in 1930, and a student, has spent six years with his present club.

Another Master of Sport is BORIS TATUSHIN, outside-right. Born in 1933, he is a tailor and began playing for Spartak in 1951. Since then he has been recognised by Moscow and his country. His usual partner is ANSTOLY ISAYEV, by profession a turner. He joined Spartak only last year.

Most feared forward in the Spartak line is NIKITA SIMONYAN, another student, and certainly some student when it comes to scoring goals, as witness his bag of five in the recent match against the Belgian side Anderlecht. Has played in the Spartak side since 1949 and is a member of the national eleven.

Most experienced of all Russian footballers is NIKOLAI DEMENTYEV, the inside-left and an Honoured Master of Sport. Visited Britain with the Moscow Dynamo side in 1945. Aged 39, but, like Britain's own Stanley Matthews, is still held in the highest esteem by football followers—and opponents. A locksmith by profession. Has been playing for more than 20 years and for Spartak since 1940. Has also represented U.S.S.R. and Moscow on many occasions.

No. 11 is ANATOLY ILYIN, Master of Sport, who was born in 1931. Another student who has been playing for seven years and who joined Spartak in 1949.

There are some other outstanding footballers in the Spartak club, among them 33 year old OLEG TIMAKOV, Honoured Master of Sport and one of the former best half-backs in the country; NICOLAI PARSHIN, who plays half-back and forward, and two young backs, MICHAEL OGONKOV and ANATOLI MASLENKIN.



AT THE TOWER

Members of the Spartak football team and their girl interpreter gather round YEOMAN WARDER PERCY BELSON during a visit to the Tower of London, part of their sightseeing tour.

Previous Highlights at Molineux

ON this, one of the biggest occasions in Wolves history, it seems appropriate to recall some of the events which had provided highlights in the 77 years during which the club story has been unfolding.

For one of the biggest we have to turn back only to last April, when with a victory over Tottenham Hotspur the club made sure of their first ever Football League championship. For that honour they had to wait the 66 years since they helped with 11 other clubs to form the competition.

First trophy Wolves ever won was the Wrekin Cup, way back in 1884, but within five years of the formation of the Football League (in which, in the first year, they finished third) they had become the proud holders of the F.A. Cup.

That was the club's first big occasion and it was the first time the final (played at Fallowfield, Manchester) had been taken out of London.

Two cup final successes were to follow.

GREAT WIN OVER NEWCASTLE

IN the spring of 1908 they confounded all the forecasters by beating the supposedly unbeatable Newcastle United at the Crystal Palace—and at that time Wolves were in the second division.

For their next success they had to wait 41 years, until 1949, when it was their turn to stop the successful run of a Second Division team by beating Leicester City 3-1 at Wembley.

But the outstanding occasions have not all come when they have been on the top. One of them in fact, was when they were at the foot of the First Division (in their first season back after 23 years in the Second Division and one in the Third).

Not until the last day of the season were they sure of retaining their Division I status. They had to beat Everton—and they did, to start the successful membership which culminated in the title.

FLOODLIGHTING PIONEERS

YES, this famous Molineux Ground, to which the club moved in 1889, has seen many an occasion which looms large in the club story, and not all of them have been immediately connected with the club. It was here for instance, that England leader Nat Lofthouse scored six goals against the League of Ireland two years ago.

There was an international match here within a couple of years of the opening—against Ireland, in 1891—and in 1903 Ireland came again, to be followed in 1935-36 by the match with Wales, captained that day by Charlie Phillips, the Wolves winger.

And coming nearer the present day we have one of the biggest forward steps in the club's history—the installation of the floodlighting system under which we shall see tonight's match.

It has been the means already of introducing us to football friends from the Argentine, South Africa, Austria and Israel. Now come Spartak, to make this yet another big occasion—the first all-ticket floodlit match in Wolverhampton and only the third all-ticket game in our history.



AT THE EMBASSY

NIKITA SIMONYAN, captain and goal scoring centre forward of the Spartak team and VALENTIN ANTIPONEK, Spartak president (right) leaving the Soviet Embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens.

Tonight's Topical Talk

WELCOME—hearty welcome—to the first Russian football team to appear at Wolverhampton. Welcome to the Spartak officials and team.

How did the game start in Russia? A matter of forty years ago, the brothers Charnock of Cheshire, who were the principals of a cotton factory near St. Petersburg (as it then was), launched a football club as a welfare movement, the welfare including a hoped-for check on vodka-drinking among their employees.

They levelled a ground, made their jerseys on the pattern of an English cotton-area club (Blackburn Rovers) and later even provided a British coach.

The brothers did a grand job. It was one of many British pioneering moves up and down the world, and the furore created by the Dynamo's visit in 1945 and by the Spartak team's visit now is one phase of the reward.

CRUDE TO FIRST CLASS

THE game progressed so well that soon there was a Moscow League with matches attracting 40,000 attendances. Before this date the Pilgrims—an amateur team from England—visited Russia, and I saw the first Russian team to figure in the Olympic Games. That was at Stockholm in 1912.

They were the crudest team there—with pads outside stockings in the old-fashioned style. Then, little or nothing was heard of the game there until 1945 when the Dynamos arrived, a welcome goodwill mission marking the partnership of the Second World War.

The Moscow Dynamos thus came from behind the veil. As footballers they were unhonoured and unsung. As partners in the victory over Nazi Germany they were national heroes.

The first match was with Chelsea and public interest exceeded all expectations. The Stamford Bridge ground underwent a great invasion, with spectators on roofs and falling through windows. Curiosities were seen. The Soviet players came out for a quarter of an hour's warm-up and then retired to complete their preparations for the kick-off. In this game they were still Heroes All and no-one begrudged their draw.

THOSE DYNAMOS

NEXT they met Cardiff City and scored ten goals. I was there. The forward-line, on the move, was almost irresistible.

The ball was moved from man to man with such swiftness in positional play that on several occasions a couple of forwards were all alone in front of goal and scoring was simple. Remember, however, that these Football League teams were emergency, war-time combinations and were not fully football-fit.

Then the Dynamos met Arsenal—though it was little like the Arsenal team, with Matthews and other borrowed plumes in the Highbury colours.

The Dynamo officials protested about this action, as they had insisted on the names of opponents being printed beforehand and these guests were not in the official list. The Arsenal replied that some of their men had not been able to get release from the Services on the Continent but the match was a farce, anyway, as it was played in dense fog.

It would not have been started, normally. But the gates had been opened early to accommodate the army of people swarming to the match so it was On with the Show. A farce it was but Dynamo now showed first-class form.

by Ivan Sharpe

GLASGOW DRAW

FINALLY, they drew with Rangers at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, in a hectic match decided by a penalty-goal equaliser for the home team, which wasn't exactly popular with the Soviet side. I can see them now, as they left the field, glaring at a linesman in a red coat whose persistent flagging had persuaded the English referee to give a penalty-award he had at first refused. For once, the Russians saw red and didn't like it.

They were fêted on their return, undefeated and made Heroes of the Soviet Union.

So it isn't surprising that the Spartak visit is an outstanding attraction. The Dynamos' 5-0 win over Arsenal in Moscow has lit the spark if it needed lighting, and this floodlight match at Molineux should be a memorable occasion.

RUSSIAN STYLE

DYNAMO, Spartak and Red Army are now the leading teams. One of the features of their play is their outstanding discipline.

They play like a well-drilled combination. All their energy is reserved for the actual play. By this I mean they don't make appeals; against the Arsenal in Moscow the Dynamos also cut out all congratulation to goal-scorers.

All that happened during the scoring of those five goals against Arsenal—memorable goals against a club with that famous name, remember—was that on one occasion a colleague patted a scorer on the back as the pair crossed paths in taking-up position to re-start the game.

This discipline and the conservation of energy impressed English friends of mine who attended the match.

GOALKEEPER GRINNED

THE same with the goalkeeper. The Russians, like most of the Continental countries, refrain from charging the goalkeeper. It was against the usual procedure, therefore, when Arsenal charged the goalkeeper, as is permitted by the *Official* laws of play.

The goalkeeper obviously wasn't used to it. But he took the charges with good humour—exceptionally so—and so did the crowd, which is in contrast to the whistling normally encountered abroad as a form of crowd-disapproval.

The Russians adopt the Continental style of play. They rely mostly on the short-passing game, based, of course, on quick ball-control and ceaseless positional-play at speed. They do not hold the ball long, as a rule. These methods produced high-class play during Dynamos' 5-0 win.

To begin with, shooting was not impressive but, after a couple of goals had arrived, the whole team turned on the heat.

They are thus like the rest of the world, abroad. The first goal can make a deal of difference.

OPEN GAME MAY TELL

SO there should be a contrast in style under the lights tonight. We must expect Spartak to play in the Vienna way with a faster, more incisive method and with greater gifts in making and taking openings.

When the Dynamos were here they had a spectacular, man-on-the-flying-trapeze goalkeeper . . . "Tiger" Khomick was first class and, as I sat next to him at the Rangers' banquet, I can say the same of his appetite.

But I held the Russian defence to be suspect under pressure—notably against the long pass and open game, as favoured by the Wolves.

Abroad, they meet the open, swinging attack of the Molineux style less frequently than British teams, so a clash of methods is one of the possibilities of tonight's most intriguing test.

May the play, all round, be worthy of the occasion and tighten the ties of friendship for which Association football—the game of over 80 countries—has rendered such far-reaching service.



MANY REASONS
ARE GIVEN WHY
THE RUSSIANS
SHOULD WIN
TONIGHT:-



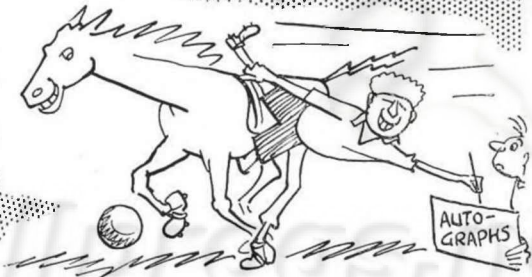
① SPARTAK!
THE VERY
SOUND
STRIKES FEAR
INTO OPPONENTS



② THEY
EAT
ENORMOUS
MEALS



③ THERE IS A
FORECAST OF
NO SNOW ON
THEIR SHOOTING
BOOTS



④ THEY PRODUCE
WONDERFUL FEATS OF
WIZARDRY



⑤ THEY ARE
SO FAST-
YOU SEE
THEM ONLY
AS A BLUR



THEY'RE SO
BLURRY
MARVELLOUS
WE CAN THINK
OF ONLY ONE
REASON WHY
THEY SHOULDN'T WIN

NAMELY,
THE CHAMPIONS!

ARROWSMITH