

1934... THE VINTAGE FOOTBALL YEAR

Stardom for Johnny as Sam hits 500 not out

★ **By DESMOND HACKETT**

THE champagne corks will pop, the camera bulbs flash, the crowd cheer, and life will seem full tomorrow for 40-year-old Sam Bartram, as the Soccer world celebrates his 500th League appearance for Charlton.

And in this his finest hour Bartram will think of a grubby-faced young lad who cried at the coal face in the rugged, unlovely village of Boldon, Co. Durham, because he had missed an England schoolboy cap by four days.

The 14-year-old Sam Bartram had to quit school because of the depression and go to work. And four days later a letter came to the school telling him he had been picked for England schoolboys.

As he takes the plaudits and praise Bartram hopes that somewhere his old schoolmaster, George Gair, will remember and be just a little proud.

Schoolmaster Gair taught Bartram the ABC of his football, tutored his willing feet to make him left half to Raich Carter's inside left for Sunderland boys, Durham County boys, and oh! so pathetically, near-England boys.

'KEEPER BY ACCIDENT

Bartram, of the granite frame and the flaming hair that has been a red-for-stop signal for three generations of forwards, says it was all an accident that he ever became a goalkeeper.

He took over during a local game when the goalkeeper was hurt and kept the job. He was whisked off to join Charlton because of an accident, made good in his last trial game, and got his first League game because of another accident.

There was no accident about the rest of Bartram's story. This bounding, swashbuckling footballer decided that from that first League game he would do all the planning.

And if any rising young goalkeeper wants to know how to stay the fierce pace of modern football this is the Bartram way:—

You must be so keen that you would miss a meal, walk miles, miss your sleep to get your game.

You must never be bored by the tough, exacting daily routine of taking shots from every angle, cutting out centres, knowing all the angles, knowing your opponents, living and dreaming your game.

As a footballer you are old, Sammy Bartram, but mighty fit, I said. And Bartram beamed that outsized, lovable smile, pounded his mighty chest, and delivered himself:—

"I intend to stay just that way. Often after the others have gone I stay around at the ground and do my own special series of limbering-up exercises.

IT'S FASTER

"Modern football is faster than ever, and I am going to keep just ahead of the pace."

No wonder they still call him Split-Second Sam.

Don't imagine Bartram to be an old, cautious, stay-in-goal performer. Not Sam. Bartram is the boldest goalkeeper of them all.

This very season he has often been observed within 20 yards of the half-way line hopefully shooting for the opposition goal. "And I'll get a goal before I'm through," says he.

Goalkeeper, sports-shopkeeper Sam has one ambition—just to keep playing football. When it is all over he hopes he can still be in football as a manager.

We hope so too. A happy 500th birthday, gradely lad.

- 1934.—Sam Bartram plays his first League game for Charlton.
- 1934.—Johnny Haynes is born at Edmonton, London.
- 1954 (March 17).—Sam and Johnny play for the Football Combination against the Dutch.
- 1954 (tomorrow).—Sam Bartram celebrates his 500th game . . . and young Johnny is tipped to play for England ere the year is out.

BARTRAM—THE MAN



SAM and his MASCOT . . . LAURI

TITLE.....7

SAM BARTRUM PLAYS 500th GAME FOR CHARLTON F.C.

1.	SV	BARTRUM KICKING BALL ON GROUND	4
2.	SV	BARTRUM KICKING BALL ON GROUND	4
3.	GV	CROWD	2
4.	SV	BARTRUM, CAPTAIN FOR DAY, LEADS OFF TEAM	4
5.	SV	BARTRUM WINS TOSS	7
6.	GV	PLAY	3
7.	SV	BARTRUM MAKES SAVING, TIPPING BALL OVER BAR	7
8.	LV	BARTRUM MAKING ANOTHER SAVE & CLEARS BALL UP FIELD	10
9.	SCU	BARTRUM DIVES & PUTS BALL ROUND POST	6
10.	LV	CROWD	2
11.	SV	BARTRUM COMING OFF GROUND AFTER GAME	3
12.	CU	CAKE IN ROOM	4
13.	LV	PLAYERS OF CHARLTON & PORTSMOUTH CROWDING ROUND BARTRUM & CAKE	4
14.	SV	JIMMY SEED SPEAKS "LET ME PROPOSE THE HEALTH OF SAM, WHO THROUGH HIS MERITORIOUS CAREER HAS MADE 500 CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES IN THE FIRST DIVISION."	23
	<i>CU Sam</i>		
15.	SV	SEED & PLAYERS DRINKING BARTRUM'S HEALTH	6
16.	CLOSER V	PORTSMOUTH MANAGER SPEAKS <i>followed your career</i> "SAM WE HAVE WATCHED YOU FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS NOW AND MAY I ENDORSE WHAT JIMMY HAS JUST SAID. MAY YOU PLAY FOR ANOTHER 500 YEARS (LAUGHTER)"	20
17.	SCU	BARTRUM REPLIES <i>most fall</i> "GENTLEMEN, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE THIS DAY POSSIBLE FOR ME. AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PRESS FOR THE KIND WAY THEY'VE TREATED ME THROUGHOUT MY CAREER."	26
18.	CU	BARTRUM DRINKING <i>the whole of</i>	6

LENGTH WITH TITLE.....148 Ft.

21
177

147 7 127