

Goodbye GOLDSTONE

IMPORTANT WIN BUT IT'S SO SAD



GOOSE BUMPS: Marcus Goode's gesture

Marcus strips for action and earns crowd's cheer

SHIVERING streaker Marcus Goode bared all in celebration at Albion's heart-tugging victory.

Despite the cold and rain, the 25-year-old stripped off at the final whistle and danced among the astonished East Terrace crowd. Most spectators took

the strip in good spirit and his stunt earned him a loud cheer as news reached other parts of the ground.

Marcus, from Orpington, Kent, said: "I didn't come here intending to do it. It was just one of those things. I got carried away with the emotion of it all but it was pretty chilly."

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Computer programmer Jeremy Card, 30, of Garden Street, Lewes, said: "This is really sad after all this time."

"I have been coming here for 25 years. It was a very important win and they have a definite chance of staying up now. The team should have a good future."

Derek Davis, 30, from Worthing, said: "I felt like crying at the end. It was a very emotional moment when the final whistle blew, but at least the win gives us a real chance of staying up."

Jez Clarke, 19, from Dyke Road, Brighton, had his face painted for the occasion, and said: "It was a strange feeling, part delight at the win and part sadness at the end of an era. I thought the occasion was getting to the players in the first half, but they came good in the end."

Memorable

Kenneth Choat, 67, from Southwick, has been an Albion fan since the age of five, and said: "Today ranks with the most memorable moments. The Goldstone may not be on a par with the likes of Old Trafford, but we all love the place. I won't be able to go near it once the demolition starts."

Gay Moore, 34, from Rottingdean, said: "I first came to the ground with my dad when I was about seven. It's a very sad day, but the result

By reporting team: Claire Byrd, Ian Carter, Angela Walton, Tim Bowden, Danny Harding and Phil Dennett

Pictures by: Simon Dack, Kirsty Wigglesworth and David Buchan

absolutely brilliant." Sylvia and Ron Bryant regularly travel to the Goldstone from their home in Norfolk. Sylvia, 58, said: "We've been coming here ever since they started up again after the war. It's very sad to make our last visit, but the result is fantastic."

Telecommunications worker Malcolm Middleton, 41, of Harbour Way, Shoreham, said: "Getting a new stadium now is the only way forward. They have got to move on. I have been coming here since the age of eight. When we get a new ground we can work our way back up the league."

Alan Moyse, 51, a chartered accountant, from Withdean, Brighton, said: "I feel extremely sad. It is the end of an era. I can remember back in 1958 when we beat Watford 6-0 here. There were 36,000 people around the ground that day. There have been many memorable moments in the last 40 years. I have made so many friends here."

Ray Purdew, 50, of Hassocks, clutching his prized chunk of turf after the match, said: "It's terrible that something that has been going for all these years is coming to an end. I am going to put the turf on my lawn in a little spot."



KING OF ALL I SURVEY: Colin Powell ignores the downpour as

Cheers swept along



ROOFTOP VIEW: Car rental firm takes the weight

AN estimated 1,000 loyal Albion fans turned up to the Goldstone, knowing they had no chance of getting in.

They found themselves locked out because they had not been able to snap up one of the 11,500 tickets on sale.

They came from far and wide just to say they had been there when the Seagulls played their last game at the Goldstone.

Crowds huddled together, sheltering from the pouring rain under

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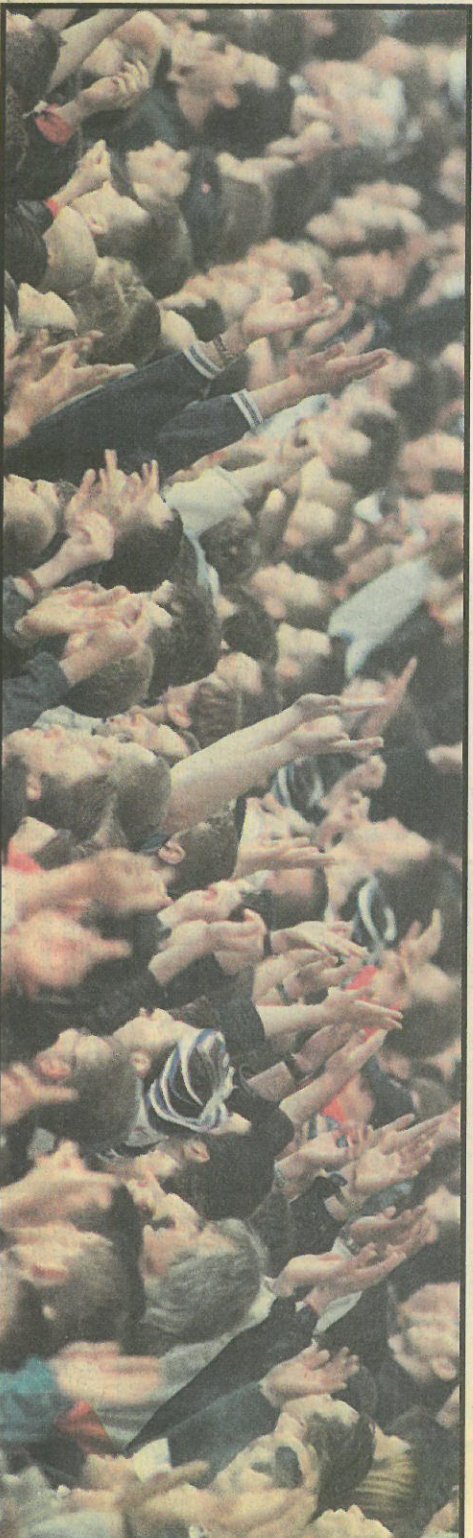
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WE'RE HERE: The fans in the famous North Stand salute the victorious Seagulls for the very last time