

Roy Paul

Today football players travel from all over the world to play in the English Premier

League. But back in the 1950s things were very different.

These were the days of the maximum wage in football – which was not abolished until 1961. In 1950 it was £12 a week, eventually rising to £20 by 1958. It ensured that players would never become wealthy and in fact their earnings were little more than the average wage. It tied players to the supporters and their community but did not allow them to maximise their earnings during a short career. All players earned the same, no matter how prominent they were, which led to all sorts of undisclosed payments and left players allegedly open to bribery. But in 1950 there seemed to be opportunities in Columbia, South America. Their FA did not pay transfer fees, were not be part of FIFA and behaved like a rogue organisation, but like everyone else, footballers had to look after their families.

Neil Franklin, a fine centre half, concerned, understandably perhaps, at the quality of life in Stoke, signed for Independiente Santa Fe in Bogotá for £5,000 a year and £35 win bonuses. He withdrew from the England World Cup squad in 1950 and as a result was banned from football by the FA. But financial security seemed compensation enough.

The Swansea star Roy Paul was one of seven others who were tempted. Why not? He had been a miner from Merthyr.

The Post

THREE-HALF PENCE

in Swansea

HAS ROY PAUL JOINED SOUTH AMERICAN CLUB?

BIG BLOW TO SWANSEA AND WELSH SOCCER

By ROLANDE

IF statements which were prevalent in Swansea to-day are ultimately confirmed, Swansea Town has suffered a staggering blow. Welsh international half-back Roy Paul is believed to have joined other leading English players who have decided to take advantage of the attractive offers made by the South American clubs, Millonarios, Bogota and Sante Fe.

Until this week the Bogota "magical" had not reached Wales, but today the news leaked out that Paul, one of the most outstanding half-backs who has served Swansea for many years, had been in touch with Jack Dadds, the English agent for the Millonarios Club and had agreed to join others who have decided to forsake English League soccer.

Swansea Town were unable to confirm or deny the statements when approached to-day, except to admit that Paul, whose contract does not expire until July 31, had not re-signed for next season. He was due to have been at the Velodrome to meet the manager, but did not arrive.

CLUBS' POLICY

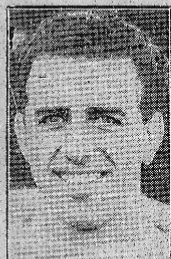
The club's policy, often pressed by the chairman, Mr. Abo Ecclesman, and the manager, Mr. William McCandless, has been to keep faith with the public and not indulge in wholesale transfers of their best players.

Some months ago Paul received the club's benefit of £750 and it is, of course, no secret that the club could have commanded a fee of £15,000 to £20,000 for his signature from Arsenal alone, apart from other clubs who had shown a keen interest in the player.

Swansea Town has been Paul's only club. A product of the Ton Boys' Club, he came to Swansea in his teens and, in common with many others, had his career interrupted by the war, during which he served with the Army overseas. It was after his return to Swansea that he became one of the most skilful attacking right-half-backs in the country.

OUTSTANDING DISPLAYS

His outstanding displays for Swansea Town were noted by the Welsh selectors and in the 1949 season he was awarded his first international cap against Scotland at St. James' Park, Cardiff. Since then he has never looked back and not only earned his Welsh



ROY PAUL

team during the close season, but played at all last season's internationals—on one occasion, as last night.

His departure will be a distinct loss not only to the club, who can ill afford to lose a player of his calibre, but to Welsh international soccer as well.

£24,000 SIGNING FEE

More than 30 telegrams from top class players in England and Scotland, headed up by Jack Dadds, the English agent for Millonarios, at his Blackpool flat yesterday. Most of these were from players of repute, but many of them were over the age limit.

While he has authority to offer up to £4,000 as signing on fee and £10 a month to certain players who, in his opinion, are top players, Dadds points out that these figures will not necessarily be offered to every player.

He has refused to divulge the names of the players who were stated to-day that Blackburn, the Everton and Welsh international, had turned down an offer to play for the Millonarios.

DEAD WITH GUN AT HER SIDE

New time for start of big fight

The world heavyweight championship fight between Bruce Woodcock and Lee Savold at the White City.

in a "Lassamae" in all sizes.

Parkhouse equals Glamorgan record

Twenty-five year old Gilbert Parkhouse, giving a brilliant exhibition of flowing stroke play, obtained his second century of the match against Somerset at Cardiff to-day to equal a Glamorgan record and at the same time set up the highest score (145) of his career.

He completed his second century out of 155 in 101 hours, the only other Glamorgan batsman to achieve this feat being the Yorkshireman, Eddie Bates, in 1927.

This was also Parkhouse's third 100 in two consecutive matches, although in 1928 D. Davies got three centuries in successive innings, but not two in the same match.

BRITISH ARMY OFFICER'S WIFE SHOT IN AMBUSHED TRAIN

A BRITISH ARMY captain's wife, Suzanne Crawford, aged 20, was wounded when terrorists ambushed the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore night train early today, says Reuters. Bullets raked the train as it sped through a cutting. Mrs. Crawford was hit in the thigh as she slept in her bunk. Her husband, Captain A. M. Crawford, son of Major-General J. S. Crawford, of Richmond, Surrey, was with her, but he was not hit.

An ambulance met the train at Johore Bahru and took her to a British military hospital in Singapore.

A British social welfare official, Mr. R. K. Howe, who was travelling to Singapore to catch a ship for Britain, was also wounded. His leg wound was only slight, so he will not miss the ship.

There were three other casualties in the train—a Gurkha soldier, an Indian woman and a Chinese.

LATE NEWS

Telephone 1, Swansea 3351

LEICESTER, 24.6.49.

ESSEX, 24.6.49.

WORCESTER, 24.6.49.

MIDDLESEX, 24.6.49.

SOMERSET, 24.6.49. Appeal.

(Not yet received.)

47, 1949.

HANTS, 24.6.49. 1949.

and 20, 1949.

SUSSEX, 24.6.49.

330 LEWES.

MERRY HOLE.

sea expecting egreys today

yesterday
ince July
and the
ly was
rich the
year—81
on June
tempera-
Victoria
was 75
degrees
perature,
midline,
and tem-
peratures, 126
degrees in the sun, with 13.6 hours of sunshine.
Last Thursday and Saturday the shade temperature was 77 degrees and 72 degrees in the sun. Hours of sunshine were then 13.1 and 12.4 respectively.
On Friday the shade temperature was 55 degrees, and 110 in the sun.
Since May 27 only one of an inch of rain has fallen, and there have been ten clear rainless days.

The Millonarios club in Bogotá offered him a £3,000 signing on fee and £150 per month. Once in Bogotá however, players were unimpressed by the conditions.

It was not an attractive place, even in comparison with Stoke and Merthyr. Football pitches surrounded by barbed wire were singularly unattractive but, more importantly, Millonarios offered cheaper contracts than those which had attracted them. Paul stayed in Bogotá for only ten days, without playing a single match.

He returned in June 1950 and immediately found himself in big trouble with Swansea Town. Paul was adamant that he was not in breach of contract since he didn't play any football but the club were angered by his South American adventure. He was merely a footballer, a commodity, and had to be punished. There was talk initially of a £20,000 bid from Manchester United but it was to Manchester City that he was transferred for £19,500, a British record for a half-back. His brief visit to Columbia however served to point to the complex international future waiting for footballers and its supporters.

Roy Paul was a great success at his new club and is still very fondly remembered by them. In 1955 as captain, he led Manchester City to the Cup Final at Wembley and although they lost, City returned in 1956 to win.

Roy Paul held the cup aloft in triumph. From Bogotá and banishment to winning at Wembley. Not bad, on the whole.

This is taken from my book, *Swansea in the 1950s*. Available from Amazon