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Commentary

This article sets out to develop a standard test procedure for mouthguard assessment. A test rig is described, results taken, appropriate forces discussed, and a standardised method suggested. This should allow comparison between different types of mouth guard and improvements in design developed in the laboratory before being tested in the field.

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Cor, what a team!

At a recent interview, when asked to choose his greatest ever team performance, the former President of FIFA (Fictitious International Football Association) Sir Stanley **Rous Sarcoma** chose the 1997 Plymouth Argyll Robertson Pupil FC (a.k.a. "the Medics"). Their nickname arose from the clinical way they disposed of visitors to their home ground at **Weber Parkes (Syndrome City)**. "The Medics" were no less successful away from home due to the surgical precision with which they dissected host defences on the ephemeral break. The club had already become financially extremely successful due to their Chairman Martin "**Starr**" **Edwards**—"Val(v)ue for money is the heart of the game" was his motto. The all-important style of play, however, was dictated by the team's manager Graham **Turner Syndrome** (before his subsequent fall from grace due to involvement in the "XO" sex scandal). The team's crowning glory was winning the 1997 European Cup Final when a dramatic last minute penalty helped defeat the German side Bayer Munich at Lisbon's famous "Stadium of Light-Chained Paraprotein".

The team (nicknames in brackets)

- 1 Bob **Wilson (Storage Disease)**—initially an adolescent delinquent, he says he learnt the art of goalkeeping at an approved school (Lillishall) in order to avoid later excessive "Copper" problem.
- 2 Robert **Jones (Procedure)**—performances belied severe ankle instability problems.
- 3 Earl **Barrett (Oesophagus)**—often produced deep penetrating holes in defences.
- 4 Alan **Hansen (Bacillus)**—never seemed to feel pain when tackling opponents.
- 5 Tony Adams—Later of Arsenal, and formerly with **Stoke, Adam's attacks** were impressive but infrequent.
- 6 Jimmy **Hill (Sachs Lesion)**—the "hatchet-man" of the team.

- 7 **Anders Limpar (Skin Disease)**—a great acquisition from the Swedish club Adipose Tuberosa Simplex FC.
- 8 Andy **Grey—Turner's** greatest signing.
- 9 Kevin **Campbell (de Morgan)**—always dependable from "the Spot".
- 10 Ian **Wright**—great goalscorer before his career was "**Stained**" by involvement in X-rated "blood films".
- 11 Robbie **Fowler—Solution** to most striking problems especially against the Arsen(ic)al.

Subs

- 12 Chris **Bart—Williams (Haemoglobin)**—the perpetual baby of the side.
- 13 Paul **Allen (Test)**—great goal scorer but occasionally fades away when there are difficulties with adequate supply.
- 14 George **Berry (Aneurysm)**—once famed for his deft clips at corners now not so good in air owing to serious head injury.
- 15 Peter **Osgood (Schlatter Disease)**—overcame knee injury early in career to later become a superstar.
- 16 Mark **Hughes—reflex** striking at its best but least said about private life! What a great team—assembled for less than the money it cost to buy one of the Newcastle United club feet! So famed was this team that at the end of their careers Wilson, Hansen, Hill, and Grey all became TV presenters on BBC's "Cross-Match of the Day". Ah, who will ever forget that night in Lisbon when Jones had to score that penalty "for the team" against the famed German International keeper **Heinz (bodies)-Reidel (lobe)** Bence. Jones showed nerves of **Steel (-Richardson-Olsezewski)** when slotting home that last minute spot-kick hence such a situation has gone down in football folklore as the **Bence-Jones (Pro-team) Test**.

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