

No.75 Gordon Westley

Born in 1938 and a native of Wolverhampton, Gordon signed amateur forms for his local Wolverhampton Wanderers on leaving school, but was released by them in the summer of 1954.

Signing for us in the close season at the age of 17, he settled well into our reserve team, playing his first game, 14 August 1954, at wing-half. However, on the suggestion of our manager at the time, George Cummings (the former Aston Villa international), Gordon concentrated on the left-back position, where his 6 foot and 13 stone frame was ideally suited.

It took only two months for his fast and very clever performances to raise him to first-team level; on his debut, 1 November, Wolves were our visitors and a 3-1 reverse was the score-line. Gordon didn't play in the firsts again until New Year's Day.

The 1st of January headed a run of five first-team outings, at the end of which his meteoric rise was complete. Second Division Bury beat several clubs for his signature, in February 1955. Our left-winger, Norman Lawson, would follow Gordon to the same club six-months later.

This was a bad time for Hednesford, financially, due to inclement weather conditions leaving the Keys ground water-logged (as always), leading to the cancellation of many home fixtures and resulting in a long series of costly away games. However, the players agreed to a 50% wage cut, which eased the situation, and Bury agreed to bring their first-team to the Keys for a friendly game as part of Gordon's transfer.

Unfortunately, Gordon's stay at Bury did not result in a professional contract and I lose contact with him at this point.