

Evening Argus

NIGHT
FINAL

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1997

28p

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A last look at the green, green grass of home



OVER AND OUT: A lone policeman, caped against the rain, plods across the scarred Goldstone turf with the fans' final cheers now just a distant memory

THIS was the scene yesterday at the ground that has been Brighton and Hove Albion's home for the last 95 years.

A single policeman strolls across the once manicured pitch now marred by bald patches left by fans determined to take home a piece of the hallowed turf.

Just 24 hours earlier, the ground was a sea of blue and white as thousands of loyal supporters said an emotional farewell to their stadium.

Albion's vital win against Doncaster Rovers brought a carnival atmosphere to the final minutes.

As the final whistle blew on the Seagulls' last home match, the pitch was swamped by fans.

● Match report, Pages 34 and 35

MATCH DATE TV WARRANGLE

ALBION are up in arms over a bid to switch their do-or-die relegation showdown at Hereford.

The vital match, which the Seagulls need to draw or win to stay up and send Hereford down, is scheduled for Saturday with a 3pm kick-off.

But satellite television giants

Sky have made a dramatic attempt to move it to Sunday with a 1.30pm start so they can cover the game live.

Switch

Vic Waking, head of Sky Sports, said: "We spoke to the Football League this morning and they have agreed and the two clubs have agreed. It's now down to Hereford Police whether they can cope."

Albion would pocket £10,000

from Sky if the match is switched and Hereford, as the home team, £30,000.

But Liz Costa, vice-chair of the Seagulls' supporters club, raged: "They can't do it this late. It would be outrageous."

"A lot of Albion fans with tickets have taken days off."

Albion boss Steve Gritt said: "It's very late notice and I would rather it stayed on Saturday."

A Football League spokesman said the switch is being discussed by Hereford Police.

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INSIDE

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