

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 WRANGLE

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

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

Switch

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

by **Andy Naylor**

Vic Wakeing, 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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