

EVERY LUTONIAN IN BLACKPOOL IS HAPPY—

CLEVELEYS,

Wednesday Night.

Chiltern 'phoned last night:—

"The better footballing side won":

That was the general verdict after the match, and even the Blackpool Press subscribed wholeheartedly to this view.

Congratulations were showered from all quarters on the Town players and officials, and the players of Sheffield Wednesday and Barnsley, staying at Cleveley, were loudest in their praise.

The proudest man in Blackpool is Horace Pakes. He saw the team he had trained to the minute go on the field and beat the potential champions of the Second Division by sheer skill.

NO "KICK AND RUSH"

There was no kick and rush about the Town play, such as was the comment of one Lancashire writer about the match on Saturday.

Each movement was carried out with cool and calculated effort, but the main thing was that the ball was kept on the move and the Blackpool defenders for long periods were run off their feet.

That weakness we espied on the left flank of the Blackpool defence was exploited to the full, and we saw the wisdom of playing Sloan and Hodge as the right wing partnership.

THE BEST FORWARDS

Sloan vied with Roberts for the distinction of being the best forward on the field, and on this display it is difficult to see how he can be omitted from the first team.

His footwork was magnificent, and at one moment he was working energetically to assist the halves, and the next he was found well up the field to take part in the attack. He must be written down as one of the men of the match.

He completely refuted those who have claimed that he was not a goal scorer, for he notched a clever equaliser.

Hodge also did very well indeed, and paved the way for the second goal by his speed and ability to beat an opponent. In the first half he received a severe shaking, and I thought this might

affect his subsequent play, but he was as resourceful as ever.

A GRAND CLUB PLAYER

Roberts and Stephenson were a brilliant wing, the former working hard and skilfully as usual, playing great football, opening out the game and varying the point of attack. It was fit and proper that he should score the winning goal, and on this form he has few superiors as a club player in all the land.

Stephenson again showed that he had the beating of the International Blair when he took the ball right up to him, as, indeed, he can beat anyone. He was always dangerous, and again and again his fine turn of speed carried him clean through the defensive lines.

Blair is a grand little back, and Cardwell played much better than at Luton, for he kept a tighter grip on Joe Payne, but the latter was wise to the intentions of his policeman, and although he was not so prominent as on Saturday, he kept moving about and drawing the opposition after him to open up the way for his colleagues. He kept the line on the move, and in this respect he is improving rapidly.

HALF-BACKS' IMPROVEMENT

The half-backs were not recognisable as the line that played on Saturday.

They displayed here everything they lacked at the first meeting—resolution, confidence, and skill. The inclusion of the International Hampson in the Blackpool attack made no difference, for Fellowes played right on top of him and smothered again and again his endeavours.

Finlayson was rather shaky at the start, but when settled down he showed his best form for weeks, and although suffering from a painful knee injury in the last twenty minutes, he stuck it manfully to the end. "As good as any half-back on the field" is not too much praise for Finlayson.

Nelson showed tremendous improvement on his previous game, and deserved praise for the splendid way in which he held Finan, who is a grand centre-forward.

Nelson tackled him strongly and gave little away; he hustled powerfully and his clearances were made judiciously.

MACKEY AGAIN

Tom Mackey played another "blinder," and Hill, the Blackpool skipper, was hardly in the picture. Mackey was ready for every emergency, and never put a foot wrong throughout the game.

Smith did sterling work, and took good care that Watmough did not have such chances as in the first match.

In the second half the defence excelled during Blackpool's best period, when they were fighting desperately; they presented a solid front and refused to be shaken out of their confidence.

Dolman must not be forgotten; he made grand saves. His handling was always clean, and three catches he made were perfect examples of goalkeeping, while he dived at opponents' feet when necessary and snatched the ball away with the utmost coolness.

TEAM-WORK

On the whole it can be said that the match was a triumph of team-work. The spirit of the players throughout the game could scarcely be equalled by any team; they went out full of confidence that they could win, and did so.

The tactics were exactly opposite to those of Blackpool. The home team kept the ball very close, while the Town made ground by crisp, sweeping passes, uncannily accurate, and a stranger would have thought that Luton were leading the Second Division, and their opponents in the Third.

THINKING ABOUT SUNDERLAND

The Hydro at Cleveleys to-night is one of the jolliest places in the country, and there is bright chatter and laughter all around. The players are already talking of what will happen to Sunderland, and, honestly, I am convinced that on their form of to-day they are good enough to beat any team in the country, and I don't think Sunderland is too stern a task.

Had points been awarded on the actual play, Luton would have won by more than a goal margin, and Blackpool were well beaten in the end.

THE OTHER "MEDALS"

Some of the Town players received nasty knocks; Finlayson's knee is the worst injury, but he is confident he will be all right in a day or so. Nelson slightly pulled a muscle just before the interval, but played on as well as ever after receiving attention, and he also thinks he will be fit again within twenty-four hours.

Mackey bears on his chest the stud-marks of a Blackpool boot, and Sloan has a head decoration of sticking plaster.

Hodge is also feeling about right again after his shake-up, and so the victory has been gained with no casualty of moment.

The attendance was 16,700, and receives £1,200.