

TOWN'S UNBEATEN SPELL ENDED

Barnsley Deserved Points at Oakwell

(By CHILTERN)

BARNSELEY.—Binns; Bokas, Shotton; Jones, Watson, Logan; Fisher, Barlow, Hunt, Asquith, Lang.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Dawes, Payne, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee: G. Dutton, Warwick.

AFTER AVOIDING DEFEAT IN THEIR LAST SIX MATCHES, LUTON TOWN went down when they met BARNSELEY at Oakwell. Thick fog threatened to prevent play starting at all, and it was not until seven minutes before the appointed time for the kick-off that the referee decided that there would be a game.

DURING THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES, it was impossible to follow all the play, and the goalposts could just be seen. What was happening on the far side of the field, I could not discern, but it did not take a very keen eye to see that the home side were having the better of the play.

COEN MADE SEVERAL GRAND SAVES, and the way he got down to a goalscoring shot from Hunt was brilliant in view of the poor light. It would have been a fine save in any circumstances, and he received his measure of applause from the crowd.

THE BARNSELEY FORWARDS CERTAINLY IMPRESSED as the more workmanlike in the opening quarter of an hour, and Coen had all his work cut out to smother shots from Asquith and Hunt. Then came the home side's opening goal. Asquith did the spadework when he slipped through the defence, and shot from close range. Coen could only divert the ball, and FISHER, closing in, netted easily. Mackey rushed across, but was just too late.

THIS REVERSE BROUGHT AN IMPROVEMENT in the Town forward line, and four minutes later they were on terms. Vinall made the opening when he beat Watson, and pushed the ball through to ROBERTS, who beat Binns with what appeared to be a hard, rising shot.

THEN THE GLOOM BECAME WORSE until it was possible to see only four or five players. The players and officials trooped off, but almost as soon as they had gone, the fog lifted, and all the pitch was visible. The game was restarted with conditions better than they had been all day.

BARNSELEY WERE FASTER ON THE BALL than the Town, and with the forwards playing splendid combined football, it was no real surprise when they regained the lead. FISHER was again the scorer, and as in the first case, the goal was something of a gift. Some slack play by the defence allowed Hunt to go through with a neat pass from Lang, and Coen could only parry the centre-forward's shot. Fisher dashed in and netted.

THE TEAMS CHANGED ROUND WITHOUT AN INTERVAL, and the home side were soon storming the Town goal. The defence held firm, and then Barnsley fell away a lot. Luton began to have more of the game, and they held their own well in the second half.

THE HOME GOAL HAD NARROW ESCAPES when Binns twice dropped the ball, but although both teams exerted a certain amount of pressure, goals were never really imminent. Payne had a grand chance of equalising, but shot wildly. Luton always had a sporting chance of saving the game until eleven minutes from the end when BARLOW took a pass from the left, and running on, gave Coen no chance with a terrific drive.

FOLLOWING THIS, THE TOWN LOOKED MORE DANGEROUS than at any previous stage, but it was too late, and the home defence did not falter. The closing minutes brought some thrills in the Barnsley goalmouth, and Nelson and Mackey both came up among the forwards. However, Bokas and Shotton were great barriers, and no goals were forthcoming.

ON THE DAY'S PLAY BARNSELEY WERE THE BETTER SIDE. There was more method about their play, and had the shooting of the forwards been up to the same high standard as their approach work, then Coen would have had an unenviable task. Luton rarely touched their best, and the front line seemed unbalanced.

TAKING THE GAME ALL THROUGH, Vinall and Roberts were the best of the forwards, while Stephenson and Dawes did some good things when they were properly fed. Both, and Stephenson in particular, received some bad passes. Payne was far below his last season's form, and was least successful.

NELSON MADE A FINE JOB of holding the dashing Hunt, while Mackey and Smith gave Fisher and Lang no rope once they got their measure. That took them some time, and both wingers were extremely dangerous in the opening half hour.

FINLAYSON WAS MORE IMPRESSIVE than Fellowes and neither were as prominent in attack as they have been in recent matches. However, they had their hands full to check the wiles of Barlow and Asquith. No blame can attach to Coen, and although two of the goals came from partial saves by him, he did well to top the shots in the first place.