

Injuries And Long Trips Affected The Town

[By Chiltern]

One point out of a possible six, and only two goals against nine, was not a very satisfactory result of the holiday matches from the Luton point of view. Injuries to players and the long journeys which the programme entailed undoubtedly had an adverse effect on their form, and this was particularly so at Newcastle.

The team arrived there in the early hours of the morning after a seven-and-a-half-hours trip from Manchester, and found themselves in the position of having to field an experimental side, chiefly because of an ankle injury to Gager the day before. On Monday they faced the League leaders without Beach, Soo, Gager, Gardiner and Duggan, but pleased a holiday crowd of 22,961 with the quality of their play, and deserved more than one point. Over the week-end nearly 117,000 saw the Town in action.

Daniel A Hero At Manchester

MANCHESTER C. 2
Smith, Woodruffe.

LUTON TOWN 0

The City's biggest gate of the season, 53,592, saw the Town put up a gallant fight on Friday, for they had Beach as a passenger on the wing for 55 minutes.

With Daniel at left back and Waugh at inside right, the Town held the leaders for the remainder of the match, and the re-organised defence made a brave showing.

When the mishap to Beach occurred—he pulled a groin muscle—the City already held a lead of two goals, both scored by headers from SMITH in the 15th minute and from WOODRUFFE 18 minutes later.

The City had given the Town defence a strenuous time during the first half-hour, but their forwards were nothing like so prominent in the second half, and, although they missed chances, there was never any danger of a Town debacle as had been indicated when Beach was injured.

The Town forwards were seldom threatening the City goal, and Swift and his fellow-defenders found little to cause them real concern. The best scoring efforts for the Town came from two free kicks by Billington.

Hero of the Town team was undoubtedly Daniel, who settled down at left back as if he had played there all his life. Cooke, Gager and Streten also took honours in defence, and Billington was the best of a forward line which took too long to make progress.

LUTON TOWN.—B. Streten; Cooke, Beach; Goodyear, Gager, Soo; Waugh, Daniel, Billington, Connelly Duncan.

MANCHESTER C. — Swift; Sproston Barkas; Fagan, McDowall, Emptage; Woodruffe, Black, Constantine, Smith, Wharton.

Goal Rush By Newcastle

NEWCASTLE UTD 7

Shackleton, Stobbart (2)
Milburn, Harvey, Wayman (2)

LUTON TOWN 2

Driver (2)

Four goals in eight minutes during the closing stages of the first half had 40,362 Newcastle supporters yelling their heads off, and put the United in an unassailable position at the interval at St. James's Park on Saturday.

Previously, the Town defence, with Billington at centre-half, had done extremely well to hold the home side to one goal, despite the fact that the United line, with Shackleton restored to inside-right, was in sparkling form.

Newcastle had threatened goals from the start, but the Town were first to score through DRIVER after 14 minutes. He chased down the right wing, cut in and put in a shot which passed underneath Garbutt's body.

This threw the home side out

of their stride for a few minutes, though no one was surprised when SHACKLETON levelled the scores five minutes later.

With the advantage of the wind, the United continued to press, but stubborn work, aided by some superb saves by Streten, kept the United out until the 37th minute.

Then STOBART gave Newcastle the lead for the first time. This began a goal rush in which everything came off for them, and MILBURN, HARVEY and WAYMAN scored in quick succession.

The second half saw the Town in a grim mood, and the United forwards found that the defence had closed up, and relentless tackling kept them at bay.

At the same time, the Town forwards began to worry the home defence, and DRIVER'S goal after 75 minutes from Goodyear's pass was richly deserved. Goodyear missed a chance and a Duncan header was just diverted by Garbutt.

However, the United came again, and three minutes from the end WAYMAN increased their lead and STOBART added another when there was only a minute to go.

Billington tried tremendously hard in his new position, and Cooke, Streten and Daniel were continually in the picture, too. Driver led the line with plenty of dash, and always needed careful watching.

NEWCASTLE UNITED: Garbutt; Burke, Graham; Harvey, Brennan, Wright; Milburn, Shackleton, Stobbart, Wayman, Pearson.

LUTON TOWN: B. Streten; Cooke, Lake; Soo, Billington, Daniel; Waugh, Goodyear, Driver, Connelly, Duncan.

Leaders Nearly Lost Record

LUTON TOWN 0

MANCHESTER CITY .. 0

The City's run of 20 matches without defeat nearly came to an end at Kenilworth-road on Monday when the Town gave a much improved display, and should have taken both points.

They had a great chance of taking the lead midway through the first half when they were awarded a penalty for a foul on Driver by Swift. Unhappily, Cooke shot wide of the post from the spot.

With the Town backs and half-backs going to meet the ball all the time, the City forwards had few chances of making progress in the first half when the Town were the better side.

Their attack showed bright form, too, and it was only the sterling work of the sound City defenders that kept them out.

The City showed some improvement in the second half, but never really promised goals, and Streten was more than capable of dealing with everything that came his way.

Under pressure, the City defence showed some signs of cracking, but the Town could not quite force home their raids. Had they given Driver more through passes down the middle Swift might have been beaten more than once.

Still, it was a grand showing by the Town, and the new half-back line put up a tremendous display, with Brice blocking the middle and Goodyear and Daniel tackling hard and effectively. Lake had an excellent match.

Driver was the most dangerous of the forwards, and Connelly and Billington did much clever work in the inside positions. The work of the wingers was only moderate, and they did not make the best use of their material.

LUTON TOWN: B. Streten; Cooke, Lake; Goodyear, Brice, Daniel; Waugh, Connelly, Driver, Billington, Duncan.

MANCHESTER CITY: Swift; Sproston, Barkas; Fagan, McDowall, Emptage; Woodruffe, Murray, Black, Smith, Westwood.