

Billington's "Hat-Trick" Shock For Brentford

BRENTFORD ... 0 LUTON TOWN 3
Billington (3)

By CHILTERN

Hugh Billington, the Town's centre-forward, rocked all West London last night, when he put the Town two goals up in 14 minutes at Griffin Park, and finally sealed Brentford's fate by completing a "hat-trick" 12 minutes from the end.

The Town amply redeemed themselves for their poor display at Coventry and, on this showing, justify the optimism which was felt about their prospects before the season began.

This was a different team altogether from that which we saw at Highfield-road. There was understanding in defence, and movement and decision in attack.

Foundation of the victory was laid in the first quarter of an hour by the opportunism of Billington, but the advantage was held later by strong play by the half-backs.

Sid Owen, making his League debut for the Town, played no little part in the success, and it is obvious that he has come to stay.

Of the industrious type, with the ability to force home an attack without neglecting his defensive duties, his use of the ball was most accurate, and his height a great advantage.

Soo, too, reached his best form. He gave nothing away in his tackles and was always opening up new offensives with his judicious passing.

Completing a solid line was Gager, who was perhaps the outstanding player on the field. He kept a tight grip on Gibbons, and yet found time to come out with the ball on occasions.

The main difference between the two displays by the half-backs was that last night, all three were going in to meet the ball, and they gave the Brentford inside men no time to develop their raids.

Altogether, the Town looked like a team rejuvenated. The forwards combined as a cohesive force, and they moved the ball about in great style.

Result was that the home defence was split time and again, and Billington showed his appreciation of the extra room which these tactics gave him by obliging with the goals.

BILLINGTON'S SHOOTING POWERS

He was always a dangerous leader, and apart from his successes, gave Crozier several hot handfouls. Next to him in order of merit in the attack comes Driver, who played one of his best games since joining Luton.

Duncan, too, had another good match, and could always show Gorman a clean pair of heels. His centres were beautifully made, and he received a good service from Connelly, who, while not so effective as Driver, yet played his part.

Weakest link of the line was Wallbanks, who, after a bright start in which he did the spade-work for the first goal, was rarely in the picture. Waugh did not play because of a slight knee injury.

The defence as a whole showed a general tightening up, though there was some uncertainty by the full-backs on occasion. Neither did anything seriously wrong, but Lake was inclined to be rattled under pressure, and Hughes has not settled down completely to the style of play of the Town team.

Streten often earned the applause of the crowd of 16,989, and the feature of his play was the way in which he made the penalty area his own. Everything in the "box" was his and he made some brilliant interceptions.

BILLINGTON'S first goal after five minutes came when Wallbanks crossed the ball and it was half cleared to Soo, who took a first-time shot. Crozier went down to cover it, but Billington stuck out his foot and

the ball flew into the opposite corner of the net.

Nine minutes later he increased the lead with a first-time shot which found a billet just inside the post after Driver had made a long run.

Brentford had a considerable share of the play during the rest of the half, but despite showing some grand football in midfield, they failed at close quarters.

Again in the second half, Brentford threatened more than they achieved, and the Town always seemed to have the game well in hand.

BILLINGTON finally put the issue beyond all doubt when sheer perseverance took him through the defence. He put in a low shot which passed beneath Crozier as the goalkeeper went full length.

BRENTFORD: Crozier; Gorman, Munro; MacDonald, Manley, Paterson; Dougall, Dawson, Gibbons, Stewart, Gallego.

LUTON TOWN: B Streten; Lake, Hughes; Soo, Gager, Owen; Wallbanks, Driver, Billington, Connelly, Duncan.