

Reaping The Reward Of Reserve Strength

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN	1
BARNSELEY	0

A successful club must have reserve strength behind it. That is a lesson to which the Town have given heed, and they are now reaping the benefit for having done so.

First, Peter Small was introduced with complete success, and then, on Saturday, Charlie Burtenshaw was brought into the side at a few hours' notice to fill a gap at outside-left, which he did in a way which gave all-round satisfaction.

To make a League debut in such circumstances, and in a position which he has sampled on comparatively few occasions in the Reserves represented a severe test, but he took it all in his stride.

What pleased everybody was the way in which he got the ball into the middle, and a splendid centre from him provided SMALL with the opportunity to score the decisive goal after 32 minutes.

A spectacular effort this was, too, for Small came racing in from the wing to make contact with the ball with his head and send it flying out of Kelly's reach, and into the net off the inside of the post.

Although this was all there was between the teams at the end, the Town's first League win in 1949 and the completion of the first League double of the season was more decisive than a mere glance at the result would suggest.

Once the Town got over the early pressure which Barnsley put on and gained their stride, they were much the superior team, but they had little luck with their shooting when trying to round off their well-planned attacks.

BRENNAN UNLUCKY WITH HIS SHOOTING

They were faced, too, by a first-class goalkeeper in Pat Kelly, who made some rousing saves, though there were several shots which shaved the woodwork and about which he could not have known very much.

Brennan was particularly unfortunate in this respect, but once again he proved a hard working, virile centre-forward, and Whyte had his hands full in coping with him.

Perhaps the main thorn in Barnsley's side, though, was Small, who gave Pallister an unhappy time, and beat him time and again by sheer speed.

Small's directness is a great asset to the rest of the attack, and in the second half, particularly, he got the ball across regularly. Both Kiernan and Watkins contributed to the general effectiveness of the forward line, which always played good football, and which overcame the treacherous conditions better than did the Barnsley front line.

In fact, the Yorkshire team's attack had rather a thin time against a very sound Luton defence in which Hall was again an outstanding figure and Cooke the best full-back on the field.

There were few chinks in the Town's defensive armour, for both Morton and Gardiner did all that was required of them, and Wilson, though sometimes puzzled by the elusiveness of Scottish international, John Kelly, still managed to come out well from his tussles with him.

Two or three chances came the way of Barnsley in the second half, but, generally, they did not look likely to salvage a point, and Streten, whose anticipation was against first-class, was more than equal to dealing with everything that came his way.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Wilson, Cooke; Morton, Hall, Gardiner; Small, Kiernan, Brennan, Watkins, Burtenshaw (C).

BARNSLEY: Kelly (P.); Swallow, Pallister; Normanton, Whyte, Glover; Smith, Wright, Richardson, Baxter. Kelly (J).

Attendance: 16,836.