

Town Finished With Ten Men For The Second Time

For the second day in succession, the Town finished a game with 10 men when they met Southampton at The Dell on Tuesday.

This time the cause was a recurrence of Arnison's knee injury which caused him to be carried off the field 10 minutes from the end.

Earlier, although only a shadow of the Arnison who did so well in the opening stages of the season, he had shown more confidence in his knee, and had gone into a few tackles quite strongly.

He broke down in making a pass with the inside of his foot, and apparently caught the ball on the end of his toe.

Whether his removal made any difference to the result, I doubt, although it might have been that a full-strength Town could have mounted a great final rally in an effort to snatch what would have been a point of the utmost value.

They had shown improvement in the second half, and given themselves a fighting chance by reducing their two goals arrears after 63 minutes.

KIERNAN obtained his first League goal of the season when he took advantage of a fine opening made by Arnison to ram the ball past Black from close in.

The movement was begun by a big clearance by Stretten to Small, who made ground with the ball and slipped it inside to Arnison.

After that the Town made a desperate bid for an equaliser, and one or two dangerous movements broke down at the crucial moment.

They could not complain of defeat though, for on the day's play, Southampton were the more able side, and they deserved to be more than two goals ahead at the interval.

Away to a good start, when DAY scored for them after only 10 minutes, they were on top for most of the first half.

TWO FOR SAINTS

Day's goal followed a corner from Jones which passed across the face of the goal, and Day, unmarked, beat Stretten at the near post with a terrific first-time drive.

Fourteen minutes later, BATES added another when Jones slipped the ball inside to him following a throw-in. The inside-left hit the ball with the outside of his foot, and it went into the far corner of the net well out of Stretten's reach.

During this half the Town spent quite a lot of their time on the defensive, for Southampton found each other with well-directed, crisp passes, and were brilliantly backed up in attack by Curtis and Wheatley.

In fact, they hit pretty much the same sort of form as had the Town in the first half the

previous day, but were rather more direct.

By comparison, the Town were sluggish and seldom got going in smooth style.

After the interval Southampton fell away and the Town were more in the picture without really promising to break down the solid Southampton defence.

They fought back with plenty of spirit though, but, once again, could not produce that most necessary punch in the goalmouth.

Southampton were always the more dangerous in this direction, and there was plenty of work for Stretten in the second half.

Both Glover and Gardiner were missed from the Town team, and it was at wing-half that they compared most unfavourably with the home side.

Morton worked tirelessly in defence, but was not good constructively, and Watkins, perhaps upset by the previous day's happening, and looked tired, was much below his usual form. The forwards missed his usual immaculate service.

OWEN WAS BUSY

Owen had his hands full in looking after the speedy, nippy Wayman, but he did well, and with Cooke, shared the honours in defence.

Cooke came off the better in his duels with the Welsh international, Jones, and was one of the few in defence who managed to make use of the ball consistently.

For Aherne, Day made it a worrying afternoon, and the left-back was continually harassed by the winger's speed, but he kept going pluckily.

Stretten mishandled the ball occasionally, but he made some brilliant saves, and seemed beaten by the sheer pace of the shot that brought the first goal.

The forwards seldom revealed the sparkle of the first half the previous day, though there were times when they moved in neat, ordered style.

Waugh caused the Saints' defence most anxiety, but he did not receive the best service, while Small, after an indifferent start, came more into the limelight in the second half when he put his speed to good use. Taking the game through, however, he was patchy.

Once again in Webber's grip, Stobbart had little chance, especially as the ball often came to him in the air, and he was often facing, alone, three opponents. He did not move from the middle quite so much as he might have done in the circumstances.

Kiernan was not so successful as in previous games, but he did attempt to open out the play occasionally with that grand cross-field pass.