

Town Went Down To A Crushing Defeat

By Chiltern

GRIMSBY TOWN ... 6 LUTON TOWN ... 1

Not since that ill-starred Easter Saturday at Newcastle nearly three years ago when they went down by 7—2, have the Town suffered such a crushing defeat as was their portion at Blundell Park, Cleethorpes, last Saturday.

Never in their wildest dreams could Grimsby, fellow strugglers with the Town in the relegation zone, have hoped for such a result, and, in fact, even at half-time, the game was wide open.

Yet, before the end, the Town against a hard-tackling defence, defence was battered and broken, but they looked more dangerous by the persistence and directness for a spell following their success. of the Grimsby forwards, and the home team took these vital points as if they would start the second half with the inestimable advantage of a goal lead, but three minutes from the interval, a quick movement left BRIGGS with a simple chance.

Despite this, the Mariners were never in the lead until the 46th minute, and in the first half after considerable pressure had revealed the Town defence in determined mood, Grimsby were shocked when the Town took the lead through MORTON.

The left half thought quickly when he was left in possession by Waugh with an open space in front of him, and he took the ball on in his stride before cracking in a great shot that was slightly deflected by McMillan, and gave Bircham not the slightest chance.

Previously Luton had played some attractive midfield stuff which generally came to nought

A minute after the resumption the Town's hopes were dashed again when CAIRNS gave Grimsby the lead, but, even then, there was no hint of debacle, and Watkins went very near to levelling the scores with a shot that hit the crossbar.

Until midway through the second half, there was still a chance that the Town would rally, but then came goals for Grimsby as follows: 64 minutes HAIR, 74 minutes BRIGGS, 80 minutes SHEARER, 89 minutes BRIGGS.

Sandwiched in between had come the Town's best efforts, a woodwork-hitting shot from Glover and an offside goal by Kiernan.

One thing which this match taught the Town is that they cannot afford to give the Grimsby forwards the slightest loophole in front of goal.

There is no fiddling in the penalty area so far as they are concerned, and there must be better covering in the Town defence than there was in this match.

RUSHED OFF THEIR FEET

This department did reasonably well in the first half, but were almost rushed off their feet in the second. Owen fought hard to stop Briggs, a strong, dashing leader, but never really succeeded in getting the upper hand. Neither Watkins nor Morton could stem the tide once Grimsby were on top, and Aherne found fellow-countryman McStay a handful.

Nearest to his normal form of all the Town defence was Cooke, who never flagged, but even he was worried by the quick, first-time passing which is the keynote of the Grimsby tactics.

Streten did not have one of his best games, but it was a bad day all round.

The forwards played their usual style of football, but not so accurately as in some recent matches, and they did not impress as a force likely to score many goals.

Kiernan was below par, Stobart rarely managed to get away from McMillan, and Waugh was rather subdued, too.

Good distribution of the ball was Shanks's main forte, but he did not look effective in the penalty area, either, while Glover, cleverest ball player on the field, did not always use it to the best advantage, and sometimes held on too long.

GRIMSBY TOWN: Bircham; Fisher, Harnby; Johnston, McMillan, Duthie; McStay, Shearer, Briggs, Cairns, Hair.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Morton; Glover, Kiernan, Stobart, Shanks, Waugh.

Referee: G. Tedds, Notts.

Attendance: 17,800.