

13th Minute Penalty Began Rout Of Town

By Chiltern

BARNSELEY 6 LUTON TOWN 1

Number 13 lived up to its unlucky reputation at Barnsley on Saturday, for that number of minutes had passed when Barnsley were awarded a penalty kick which gave them the all-important first goal, and set the Town on the road to their biggest disaster of 1950.

Not that bad luck entered into this smashing defeat, for the Town were beaten by a faster, more direct team, who possessed in McCormack an opportunist who knew how to make the fullest use of the chances that came his way.

McCormack, small in stature, but very quick in the execution of his work, tore holes in the Town defence and gave Owen his most trying and unsuccessful afternoon since Briggs scored three against him at Gimsby last New Year's Eve.

Five times, McCORMACK cracked the ball into the net, the first being from the penalty awarded after he and Lake had tussled for the ball and the centre-forward had finished lying full length in the penalty area.

That that happened was completely unintentional on Lake's part, and in any case, the danger had passed.

Second for McCORMACK was also in the nature of a gift after 25 minutes when Watkins and Owen went for a high ball together. Neither connected, and McCormack slipped in to beat Hughes as he left his goal.

Prospects of a goal riot increased when WRIGHT crowned a brilliant bit of work by Smith by heading through after half an hour, and the Town's outlook was grim.

JINKS improved matters eight minutes later with a neat goal obtained with a low shot after Taylor had made the opening, and for the last part of the first half, and in the opening stages after the interval, the Town worried the home defence.

They badly needed another goal then to give them a chance, but it fell to Barnsley 12 minutes after the resumption when Baxter made a magnificent run to leave McCORMACK with a chance from which he made no mistake.

Although the Town had spells of attacking, they never appeared particularly dangerous, whereas Barnsley, exploiting a weakness down the middle, always looked potential scorers.

Two more came from McCORMACK in the 64th and 80th minutes, and, in addition, there were some close calls, too.

This is a match Owen will want to forget as speedily as possible, for he could not hold McCormack and made a number of mistakes and errors of judgment.

In fact, the whole defence had uncomfortable time, though Cooke made a good job of holding the elusive John Kelly, and the debit of six goals did not tarnish the reputation of Hughes, who made some first-class saves and shared with McCormack the plaudits of the crowd at the end.

WING HALVES IN ATTACK

The liking of the Barnsley wing halves for coming through with the ball, often unchallenged by the Town's inside men, made the task of Watkins and Shanks more difficult, but neither really got on top of the job.

Shanks found the quick bursts of McMorran difficult with which to cope, and Smith had more success against Lake than did his colleague on the other wing against Cooke.

From the forwards, it was the same old story of taking too long in which to make ground and failure to provide power in finishing when they did find a way through.

Some of their approach work was cleverly done, but too often it led nowhere, and they never found the open spaces in the same facile way as Barnsley.

Neither winger raided sufficiently and Wyldes was particularly weak in his finishing. He lacks experience, but Glover, who is an experienced player, had an unsuccessful day against the sound Pallister.

Stobart has failed to settle down at inside-right, so far, and seems to have lost his powers of marksmanship. Taylor was the more constructive inside man, but neither cut out the openings crisply enough.

As for Jinks, he, at least, demonstrates that he knows where the goal lies, and he did well enough with the somewhat limited material that came his way.

BARNSELEY: Kelly (P); Banister, Pallister; Blanchflower, Glover (Arthur), Baxter; Smith, McMorran, McCormack, Wright, Kelly (J).

LUTON TOWN: Hughes; Cooke, Lake; Watkins, Owen, Shanks; Glover (Alex), Stobart, Jinks, Taylor (J), Wyldes.

Referee: S. E. Law, West Bromwich.