

LEAK LEAGUE RUN CONTINUES

TE GOAL BOGEY REPT IN AGAIN

own Nearly Picked Up Point At Blackburn

By Chiltern

League defeats in a row, all of them by the odd goal, have effectively brought to an end the pipe dream of promotion for the Town this season and they have yet to record their first point of 1952.

They might very easily have come their way at Ewood Park, Blackburn, on Saturday, and, indeed, it looked as if that would be the case as the minutes ticked and the Town were level at 1-1.

It was, though, that late in the second half, when a winner could scarcely be expected as a last-minute goal, that the late in the 84th minute, to cause a momentary lull in the game, made the long trip. The Town would not have been able to get the more ordered football, but they showed a little bite in their approach work.

he Snow Probably Saved The Match

CONDITIONS were bad and it was to be expected that the match would have been played in a slightly different manner on Friday night.

The snow, a covering, scanty but true, to a surface which was slippery and that to secure a goal was a precarious business throughout and the Rovers were absolutely un-

dered. There were so few goals scored to the quality of the play and also a pointer to the forwards had been off their work.

Blackburn Had Two Early Escapes

CHANCES went astray and, on a normal going, Taylor would probably have scored in the second minute when he swept at a cross from Stobbart, but failed to make contact.

Then Elvey with a despairing effort just managed to beat out a shot from Taylor, and Turner failed narrowly to turn the ball into the net from near the post.

Those two attempts might easily have been goals and both occurred before the Rovers scored.

In fact, during the first half, the Town played such good football that an interval lead seemed much more likely to lead to them than to the Rovers.

Town Controlled The Lively Ball Well

THEY showed better control of the lively ball, distributed it more accurately and kept it along the ground, but the work inside the penalty area was not deadly enough.

In the last 10 minutes before the interval, the Rovers seemed to realise that a greater effort was required, and they launched a series of attacks in strength.

At this stage, they looked more dangerous than at any previous

time, but the Town seemed to have survived the worst and be assured of crossing over on level terms.

Slices Of Good And Bad Luck

HOWEVER, with just two minutes to go before half-time, the important first goal fell to the Rovers.

In a matter of seconds the Town had a slice of good luck and a slice of bad as well. First, Bell ripped in a terrific shot that was going wide of Streten, but struck Owen, who was near the goal-line.

The ball rebounded from him to Dunne, who tried to hook it to safety, could not get hold of it properly because of the slippery surface, and succeeded only in touching it on to Nightingale.

The inside-left was able to run on to the ball and crash it into the net from close range.

Switching Of Davies And Stobbart

THE switching of Davies and Stobbart was tried from the start of the second half and it brought success, for Davies made the final pass from which Mitchell obtained the equaliser with a cracking left-footed cross-shot in the 59th minute.

The next few minutes could have brought the Town the lead, for they hustled the Blackburn defence and Elvey did well to keep out a great drive by Davies.

Soon afterwards, Davies and Stobbart went back to their original positions and one wondered why, since Davies had brought added drive down the middle.

Town Returned Over £1,000

OVER £1,000 has had to be returned by the Town F.C. to unlucky applicants for tickets for the Cup-tie with Brentford on Saturday. This is easily the largest sum of money the club have ever had to send back before a Cup-tie.

Only casualty at Blackburn was Bernard Streten, who hurt a hand, but it was thought yesterday that there is not much doubt about him being fit for Saturday.

Billy Cooke gave every satisfaction in his test with the Reserves on Saturday and will be considered when selection of the Cup team is made later in the week.

Eckersley's Work Made The Winner

IT was not until the closing minutes that Davies took over the leadership again but, in the meantime, Stobbart had been unlucky with a full-length header that beat Elvey, but the ball struck Eckersley who was standing on the goal-line.

As the end neared, Rovers made frantic efforts to regain the lead and they succeeded following a bright bit of work by Eckersley.

He collected the ball just inside his own half and made a long centre that Holmes headed on to Wharton, who, in turn, headed the ball into the net.

No Points But They Earned Kudos

IF the Town did not gain any points, they earned kudos for their football on this skating rink of a pitch and from the way play went, most of the Rovers' officials would have been satisfied with half the spoils.

Certainly, the Town did not play like a team to whom defeat has been a fairly frequent occurrence recently and there was plenty of fighting spirit about them.

The defence was in staunch mood with Owen earning the distinction of being the first centre-half to prevent the Amateur International Bill Holmes scoring, since his inclusion in the Rovers' senior side.

Sparkling Play From Watkins

FEW chances came the way of the dashing centre-forward and Owen was strong and most dependable through the game.

There was a sparkling exhibition of wing-half play from Watkins, who along with Davies wore rubber-studded boots which seemed to give both an advantage so far as gaining footholds were concerned.

Watkins rose to the heights at times with his deft footwork and distribution of the ball and there was a strong contribution from Morton, too.

Wharton received little change from Ahern whose kicking was surprisingly clean and accurate in the circumstances and Dunne put up a capable display and there was not a lot of trouble from 2-11.

Ball Was Not Easy To Handle

STRETN in the first half, during the first half, when he was in common with Elvey, he found

FOR THE RECORDS

BLACKBURN ROVERS 2
Nightingale, Wharton
LUTON TOWN 1
Mitchell
BLACKBURN ROVERS:
Elvey; Stuart, Eckersley; Campbell, Kelly, Clayton; Wharton, Crossan, W. Holmes, Nightingale, Bell.
LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Ahern; Morton, Owen, Watkins, Davies, Turner, Stobbart, Taylor (J.), Mitchell.
Referee: W. R. Barnes, Birmingham.
Attendance: 25,000.

the light ball difficult to handle at times, he made few mistakes.

Once, though, when he came rushing out to take a mighty kick at the ball he was lucky, for it struck one of his own players, but fortunately did not rebound straight.

There was little cause for complaint about the defence as a whole, and there was much to admire about the way in which the forwards did their initial work.

More Punch In Attack Was Required

MORE punch would have been a welcome asset, and it might have been better had Davies remained in the middle for the whole of the second half, for Stobbart had a very quiet game against Kelly.

Only in the opening stages when he switched out to the wing did he cause the Rovers' defence much concern.

Could the line as a whole have allied punch in finishing to the midfield cleverness, the Town would not have come away unrewarded.

Turner's approach work showed improvement, and Taylor, too, played some clever football, especially in the first half, though he was not quite so prominent after the interval.

Mitchell Reaches Double Figures

DAVIES showed that his indifferent showing against Q.P.R. was just one of those off-days, for he was as thrushful as any Town forward, and certainly showed that he has sound ideas about the centre-forward position.

Distinction achieved by Mitchell in this match was that he became the first Luton winger since the war to achieve double figures, and the goal he scored was also the Town's fiftieth in the League this season.

It was a chance well taken, for the shot had to be made from a difficult angle. Otherwise, Mitchell found the close attentions of Stuart difficult to escape.

Reserves Get Off The Mark In The Cup

SHOWING a continuance of their recent good form, the Town Reserves got off the mark in the Combination Cup competition in successful style with a 5-3 win over Northampton Reserves.

At one time they led 5-1, but the Cobblers struck back twice near the end. Havenga (2), Moore (2) and Allen got the Town's goals, and Havenga, who was being watched by Ipswich Town, had a good match.

Moore was often dangerous and Allen again made a good impression. Most pleasing thing about the defence was that Billy Cooke came through his test without mishap.

Chiltern's Forecasts

F.A. CUP—Fourth Round
Arsenal v Barnsley
Birmingham v Leyton Orient
Blackburn v Hull
Burnley v Coventry
Chelsea v Tranmere
Gateshead v West Brom
Liverpool v Wolves
Luton Town v Brentford
Leeds v Bradford
Middlesbrough v Doncaster
Notts County v Portsmouth
Southend v Bristol Rovers
Swansea v Rotherham
Swindon v Stoke
Tottenham v Newcastle
West Ham v Sheffield Utd.
DIVISION III (SOUTH)
Colchester v Exeter
Gillingham v Brighton
Ipswich v Bournemouth
Norwich v Crystal Palace
Port Vale v Newport
Reading v Northampton
Shrewsbury v Aldershot
Torquay v Millwall
Walsal v Watford
DIVISION III (NORTH)
Accrington v Rochdale
Carlisle v Mansfield
Chester v Lincoln
Chesterfield v Barrow
Grimsby v Wrexham
Halifax v Stockport
Hullam v Crewe
Sheff. Mon. v H. Leopolds
York v Scunthorpe

Another Win For Town "A" Team

IN a splendidly-fought game at Brighton, the Town "A" collected two more Metropolitan League points, thanks to goals scored by Cullen from a penalty and through a fine solo effort by Bradley.

There was good football from both teams, but the Town had the edge in finishing power and were a little more sound in defence, with Stribbards, who has gained considerable confidence recently, giving another fine display.

Schoolboys Did Everything But Score

IT was a very disappointing Luton Schoolboys' team that returned from Cambridge on Saturday, knocked out of the English Schools' Shield by a goal 10 seconds from the end after they had had the better of the play throughout.

At times they did everything but score, and the chance that Cambridge snatched was almost the only real one that came their way during the match.

Six coachloads of supporters from Luton made the trip and there was a telegram of good wishes from the Town players at Blackburn.

Table Tennis

Luton League—Latest Results

DIV. I: Crusaders "A" 11, Percival 9; Electrolux 7, Crusaders 13; Percival 2, Saints 18; Commer 5, Luton Old Boys 15; St. Mary's 15, Commer 5; Saints 20, Vauxhall 10.
DIV. II: Luton Old Boys "A" 11, Crescent Club 9; Albion 5, Old Beechillians 15; Spandis 14, Luton Old Boys "A" 6; Bowling Club 9, Lutect 11; Boys' Club 7, Bowling Club 13; Vauxhall "A" 11, Boys' Club 9; Electrolux "A" 16, Alliance 4; Old Beechillians 10, Spandis 10.
DIV. III: Liberal Club 17, St. Mary's "A" 3; St. Mary's "A" 7, Luton Gas 13; Electrolux "B" 3, Liberal Club 17; Vauxhall "B" 2, Boys' Club "A" 18; Boys' Club "A" 20, Electrolux "B" 0; S.K.F. 5, Nalga 15; Nalga 14, Vauxhall "B" 6; Commer "A" 9, Vauxhall "B" 11.
DIV. IV: Old Beechillians "A" 19, Vauxhall "D" 1; Ace of Clubs 11, Boys' Club "B" 9; Crescent Club "A" 10, Old Beechillians "A" 10; Vauxhall "D" 0, Dominion 20; Lutect "A" 14, Ace of Clubs 6; Commer "B" 10, Judean 10; Boys' Club "B" 7, Vauxhall "C" 13; Old Beechillians "A" 16, Commer "B" 4.
DIV. V: Crusaders "B" 8, A.E.S.D. 12; St. George's Y.C. 7, All Saints 13; Crescent Club "B" 11, St. George's Y.C. 9; A.E.S.D. 15, Dominion "A" 5; Dominion "A" 11, Kent's App. 9; Adamant 15, Sundon Park 5; Kent's App. 8, Crescent Club "B" 12.
DIV. VI: Taddington 10, Beechwood-road Y.C. 10; Beechwood-road Y.C. 14, S.K.F. 6; Nalga "A" 14, Barton Y.C. 6; Barton Y.C. 11, Sundon Park Y.C. "A" 9; Houghton Regis 13, St. Mary's "B" 7; Hayward-Tyler "A" 6, Taddington 14; Sundon Park Y.C. "A" 8, Houghton Regis 12; S.K.F. "B" 3, Boys' Club "C" 17; St. Mary's "B" 10, Hayward-Tyler "A" 10.
DIV. VII: Percival "A" 18, Crusaders "C" 2; Crescent Club "C" 6, Davis Ath 14; High Town Y.C. "A" 2, Percival "A" 18; S.K.F. "A" 16, Adamant "A" 4; Adamant "A" 3, Crescent Club "C" 17; Hayward-Tyler "B" 5, S.K.F. "A" 15; Davis Ath 20, Commer "C" 0.
DIV. VIII: Biscot Y.C. 9, Vauxhall "E" 11; Alliance "A" 13, Old Bedford-road Old Boys 7; High Town Y.C. "B" 9, Luton Technical Coll. 11; Hotspur Y.C. 4, Alliance "A" 16; Hotspur Y.C. 12, Vauxhall "E" 8; Technical Coll. 12, Biscot Y.C. 8; Percival "B" 19, High Town Y.C. "B" 1.
DIV. IX: Davis Ath "A" 8, St. George's Y.C. "A" 12; G.P.O. 15, Vauxhall "F" 5; St. George's Y.C. "A" 16, Technical Coll. 4; St. Anne's 18, Davis "A" 2; Old Bedford-road Old Boys "A" 17, Barton Y.C. "A" 3; St. Anne's 15, Vauxhall "F" 5; Old Bedford-road Old Boys "A" 10, Kent's App "A" 10; High Town Y.C. "C" 16, Vauxhall "F" 4; G.P.O. 14, Barton Y.C. "A" 6; Technical Coll. "A" 7, Kent's App "A" 13.

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JAYS

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