

JESSE PYE LED TOWN REVIVAL

BROUGHT METHOD TO THE ATTACK

Both Teams Had Chances, But Goals Did Not Come

By CHILTERN

When he came to Luton, Jesse Pye stated a preference for the inside-left position and when he was switched there in the second half of the match with West Ham on Saturday, he showed that his constructive ideas and accurate use of the ball makes him a great asset to the Town in this position.

switch, made immediately after the interval, brought some order to an attack that had been very much out of touch and which previously had produced little to suggest goals.

As a result, this move will open up a new line of attack at Kenilworth-road for, it had been decided that Pye was the man to lead the

average support in the two matches, he made a success of the middle, but, in the first half on Saturday, he received no material which meant his talents were wasted.

At the start of the second half when he went within inches of scoring twice in the opening, Pye became the man of the match, and he might have been a match-winner, too, had he been in.

Disjointed First Half Effort

SOON have we seen a more disjointed effort from a Town side than was the case before the interval when, after a flying start with a shot from Davies nearly being an early goal, the forwards just could not make any impression at all.

The service from the wing-backs was poor, and Moore, playing in the comparatively strange position of inside-left, hard as he worked, could not make the openings that were so badly needed.

In fact, from the whole of the match line and the forwards, there was a stream of passes that went anywhere but where they were intended.

When West Ham Missed The Boat

REST IT was that their attempts to get on the move were made before they really started and the Hammers' defence was strong and robust, made more so after interception in the goal.

West Ham definitely missed the boat in the first half when there was a period when they had the best defence distinctly worried.

Obvious gaps appeared, and chances were allowed to slip. Luck was with the Town when Gregory (J.) hit the post, but the Hammers sadly needed a goal.

The Tide Turned Abruptly

EVEN so, had not Streten been at his confident best, West Ham would have been ahead at half-time and no one would have taken them their lead.

It was looked bleak from the Town point of view at this stage as the West Ham manager, Mr. Barton said afterwards, "We had to do even better kicking downhill."

However they soon found that they had turned, for the Town played themselves together finely and launched a series of full-scale attacks that had the Hammers reeling desperately and the forwards quickly passed to the



Jesse Pye

has yet reached his form of last season, and in two or three recent matches Watkins has taken a long time to settle down.

That was the case on Saturday, when he had a mediocre first half, being beaten in the tackle and taking too long to make use of the ball.

Watkins Improved After Half-Time

YET, he played much more strongly after the interval when the Town had altogether a better grip on the situation.

Morton's defensive work is strong, but he is not distributing the ball so well as he was.

Until the second half, Owen was not so dominating as he can be and he made some ill-judged back passes that caused Streten to get off the mark sharply on two of three occasions.

Yet, Moroney had few real scoring chances and he was completely in the grip of the centre-half in the second half.

Great Saves By Ernie Gregory

HOW the Hammers escaped conceding at least one goal after the interval was the most surprising thing about this match, but the brilliant goalkeeping of Ernie Gregory was the vital factor.

Two saves stand out. The first was when Pye, receiving from Cullen, took deliberate aim for the far corner of the net, but somehow Gregory reached the ball at full stretch.

The other was when Moore flicked the ball smartly from a few yards out and the goalkeeper, with his arms at their fullest extent, grabbed the ball and held it.

Penalty Claims Were Not Allowed

WITH the tide turning, Morton and Watkins approached something like their normal form, and there was a better response to Pye's prompting from the rest of the forwards.

Davies had a good second half, though he should have got his name among the scorers on a couple of occasions, but the chief marksman was Pye who constantly caused trouble to the Hammers' defence.

There were many who thought the Town distinctly unfortunate not to have at least one penalty, for, on two occasions, free kicks were awarded them for fouls, judged by the referee to have occurred just outside the area.

Turner Had Very Few Chances

MOORE tried hard when he moved to centre-forward, but again he showed rather too much of a liking for veering out to the wings, which tended to ease the pressure on the middle of the West Ham defence.

Turner's main forte at inside-right is his opportunism and his willingness to have a crack at goal.

Little was seen of him in this role on Saturday, and apart from a few determined bids to find a way through the sound West Ham defence, he had a very quiet match.

Unlikely To Plumb Same Depths Again

NOT so happy as he has been, either was Cullen, who could justifiably point to the fact that the support he received was not of the best.

On the other hand, he must guard against a tendency to hold the ball too long which crept into his play and did not pay off dividends against the speed of the visitors' defence.

However, he had several bright spells in which he used the ball to good advantage.

Probably the forwards will not again plumb the depths as they did in the first half, and their second-half form might very well have brought them a clear-cut victory, though the finishing is still not a strong point.

Goal Kept Intact For First Time

FOR the defence there was the satisfaction of keeping the goal intact for the first time this season, and apart from one period before the interval when there was some bad covering, they were equal to the demands made on them by a moderate West Ham forward line. Neither Morton nor Watkins

Full-Backs Were In Good Form

THERE was little wrong with the full-back partnership and the only occasions that Woodgate became a danger were when he wandered over to the left-wing.

When he stayed put, he could make little of Aberne who again showed a fine positional sense and kicked most accurately.

Dunne, too, maintained his improved form and he is more decisive in his tackling and more certain in his kicking than he was at the start of the season.

Streten Grasped His Chance Firmly

FOR Streten, this was the chance to re-establish himself and he grasped it so ably that he can scarcely be omitted even if Swanham is fit for the visit to Swansea on Thursday.

In the first half, Streten was confronted with several nasty situations which called for hair-breadth judgment and he came through in faultless style, though he had a good deal of difficulty in keeping out a shot from Parker—one of the Hammers' few scoring attempts after the interval.

Streten got his hands to the ball and pushed it over, via the cross bar.

Miller Was Injured At Bournemouth

THAT the players came through without injury was almost the cause for jubilation afterwards, but there was a different story from Bournemouth, where the Reserves lost their young right-half, Miller, with a knee injury after only 20 minutes.

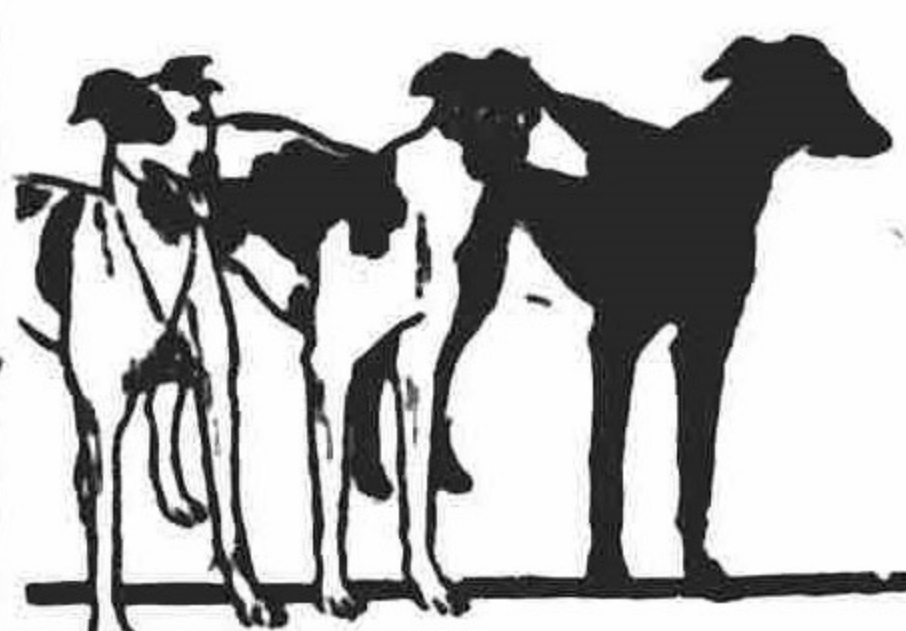
Full measure of the damage could not be ascertained before Miller went to rejoin his R.A.F. unit, but it was serious enough to prevent him taking any further part in the match.



Success For Only Two Favourites At Luton

Traps 5 and 6 were out of luck at Luton Stadium on Saturday, but number 3 started three winners and there were two each from numbers 1 and 4.

Only two favourites succeeded, but winning prices were not high. Highest-priced outsider to succeed was Please Do, a 6-1 winner



I (410yds.)—1, FLUID BOBBY (1); 2, Ballymena (4); 3, Red Ted (3); 4, Neapolitan (6); 5, Squatter (5); Blossom (2) did not finish. 2, 3, 1, 7, f. 24.81. Off 6.37.

Betting: 6-4 Ballymena, 4-1 FLUID BOBBY Neapolitan; 6-1 Red Ted; 7-1 Blossom; 10-1 Squatter. Forecast £1 9s. 0d.

II (470yds.)—1, EAGLE'S NEST (4); 2, Halfway (6); 3, Johnny D (1); 4, Skip It (2); 5, Spring (3); 6, Deemster (5). 10, f. 4, 6, distance. 27.98. Off 6.57.

Betting: 5-2 Deemster; 4-1 EAGLE'S NEST, Halfway, Skip It; 7-1 Johnny D; 10-1 Spring. Forecast £2 13s. 6d.

III (410yds.)—1, VIOLA (2); 2, Kelling (3); 3, City Lights (1); 4, Thorny (4); 5, Gold Flash (6); 6, Cotswold (5). 3, 2, 6, 1, distance. 24.36. Off 7.17.

Betting: 5-2 Gold Flash; 3-1 VIOLA; 4-1 Cotswold; 5-1 City Lights; 6-1 Kelling; 8-1 Thorny. Forecast £1 19s. 9d.

IV (410yds.)—1, MUCH MELODY (4); 2, Echo (1); 3, Joan's Star (5); 4, Our Rodeo (2); 5, Mr Murphy (6); 6, Me Again (3). Short head 5, f. 8, 1, 24.35. Off 7.37.

Betting: 2-1 MUCH MELODY; 5-2 Our Rodeo; 7-2 Mr Murphy; 6-1 Echo; 10-1 Joan's Star, Me Again. Forecast £3 3s. 6d.

V (470yds.)—1, MIRZA (3), reserve; 2, So Jolly (1); 3, Kit-Kat (6); 4, Gun Smoke (2); 5, Chance (5); 6, Arm In Arm (4). 4, f. 3, f. 6, 27.50. Non-runner: Danny Boy (3). Off 7.58.

Betting: 2-1 MIRZA; 5-2 So Jolly; 5-1 Kit-Kat; 6-1 Gun Smoke, Chance, 8-1 Arm In Arm. Forecast 18s 9d.

VI (410yds.)—1, GLOW WORM (3); 2, Too Late (4); 3, No Change (6); 4, King-Kong (2). 1, 7, 4, 23.53. Non-runners: Skewer (1), Sayhani (5). Off 8.17.

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 0
WEST HAM 0

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aberne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Cullen, Turner, Pye, Moore, Davies.

WEST HAM: Gregory (E.); Wright, Bond; Parker, Allison, O'Farrell; Woodgate, Barrett, Moroney, Gregory (J.), Tucker.

Referee: W. B. Everett, Beccles. Attendance: 16,009.

Reserves Had An Uphill Fight

AT that stage the Town were leading 2-1 through goals by George Bradley, who kept up his goal-a-match record for the Reserves, and Scott.

When Miller went off, Bennett was called back to right-half, and it was an uphill fight, especially when Bournemouth took the lead at 3-2.

However, Scott rescued a point seven minutes from the end after good work by McJarrow.

Scott, hard-working and very much on the job in front of goal was the Town's best forward.

McJarrow also had a good match, and, despite a severe shaking, Taylor was also dangerous.

Eleven Points From Seven Matches

ONCE again Kelly showed his promise as a centre-half, and was ably backed up by Smith and Pemberton, who was the more consistent full-back.

In the circumstances, to draw was an excellent performance by the Reserves, who are unbeaten in seven matches, from which they have taken 11 points.

To-morrow night, they are at home to Leyton Orient, and there are hopes that both Hall and Thompson will be available after injury.

There is a doubt about Smith, hurt at Bournemouth, and if Thompson plays, Pemberton may be moved to left-half.

Hopes That Mitchell Will Play At Swansea

DECISION about the constitution of the first team due to meet Swansea Town in the return match at Vetch Field on Thursday is being delayed.

It is likely that Bert Mitchell, who has been out for over three weeks with a thigh muscle injury, will have a fitness test to-morrow.

Expectations are that he will be able to resume in this match, and a report on the fitness of Wally Shanks is also awaited before selection will be made.

Injury Bogey Caught Up With "A" Team

THE injury bogey reached out to touch the "A" team against Vickers-Armstrong on Saturday when Keith Yardley, son of former Town player, Jimmy Yardley, damaged a shoulder in the early stages and had to switch to the wing.

With this handicap and a largely inexperienced team, the Town were no match for their strong opponents and went down by 7-1 although they opened the scoring when Neville Brown celebrated his first appearance as a professional.

Big Innings For Town By John Muse

LAST Saturday cricket match of the season at Wardown ended with the Town in a strong position but unable to force a win against some stubborn batting by their visitors Tring Park.

A hard-hitting innings of 83 by John Muse enabled the Town to declare at 164 for 7 and Tring lost a similar number of wickets but scored 70 fewer runs.

John Oliver was again in form with the ball, taking six wickets cheaply.

Fine All-round Form By Randall

A FINE all-round performance by Doug Randall, who took 7 for 29 in 12.5 overs and followed up with a grand innings of 40 enabled the Town 11 to finish on a winning note with a five-wickets victory at Tring Park.

Low scoring was the rule on Saturday when Vauxhall Motors met Three Counties Hospital.

Although Vauxhall mustered only 51, they looked booked for victory when the ninth Hospital wicket fell at 36, but the last pair carried the total to 54 and the last man, Pogmore, was the highest scorer with 16. Havhurst and Parkin shared the wickets between them.

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.

Combination League

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17th

TOWN RESERVES

v.

LEYTON ORIENT

RESERVES

Kick-off 5.45 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 2/-; Wing Stand and Enclosure 1/6; Box 1/-; Bobbers' Stand 1/3; Ground (not covered) 1/-, Boys 9d.