

PEMBERTON LIKELY TO BE FIT

INJURY DIAGNOSED AS SEVERE BRUISING

Fine Victories For First Team And Reserves

By Chiltern

VIEW of the fact that the first team full-backs, Dunne and Aherne, have been released by the Town to play for Eire against France on Sunday, it came as a shock when, a quarter of an hour from the end of the Reserves' match with Brentford on Saturday, Pemberton had to leave the field.

Pemberton, who is almost certain to be nominated for the left-back position against Blackburn Rovers, injured a shoulder, but the news yesterday was that he is likely to be fit by the week-end.

An X-ray examination made after the match disclosed that there was no bone damage, and the bruising was the diagnosis. He spent the greater part of the day having treatment, which was continued yesterday. The shoulder was still sore after 24 hours.

However, the trainer is optimistic that this will have disappeared completely before the week-end, and intensive treatment will be carried on for the next few days.

A final verdict will be delayed until later in the week.

Only Injuries Marred Another Great Day

THIS injury and one to Denis Rackley, "A" team centre-half, who badly damaged a knee in the match at Windsor, were the only happenings to mar another great day for the Town.

The seniors continued their fine run with a great win at Hull, where, faced by a team desperately in need of points, they held off heavy pressure in the opening stages and gradually assumed control to gain what was a most deserved victory in the end.

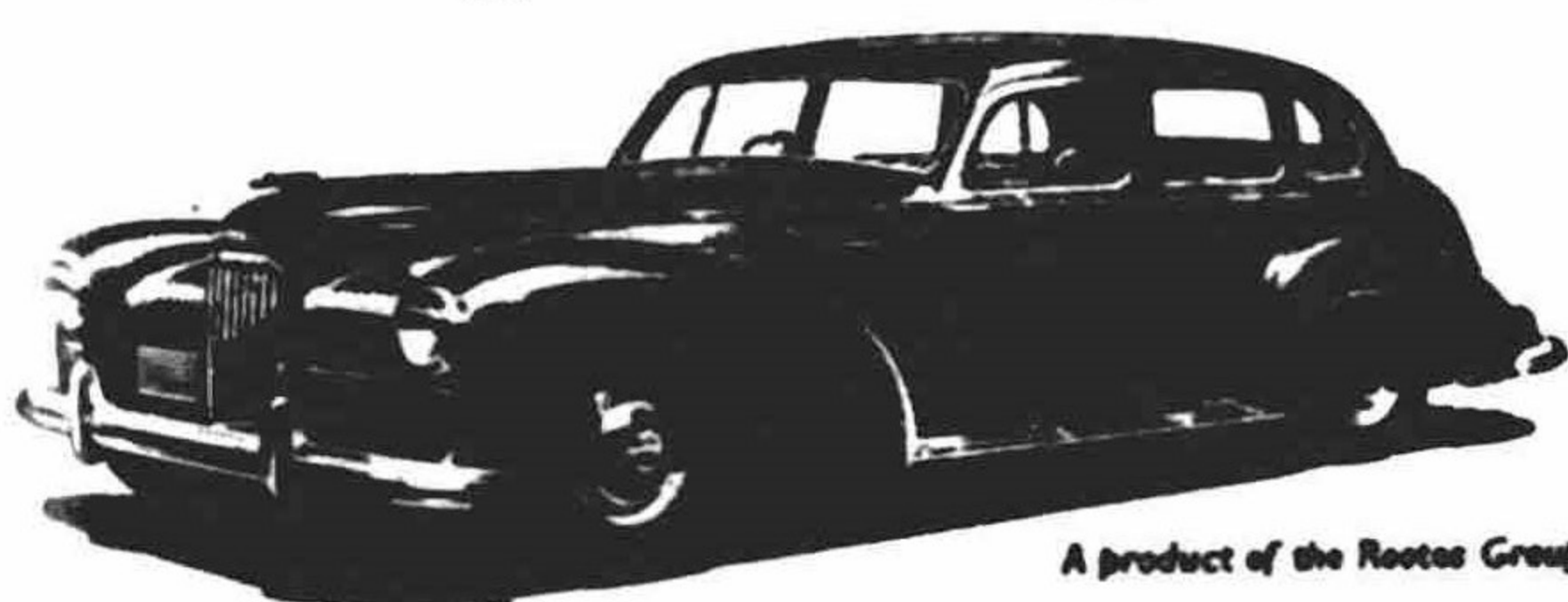
Defence Held Out Under Pressure

FOR the second week in succession, the defence did not concede a goal, and they presented a solid, concerted front during the whole of the game, and particularly during that first hour when Hull were beginning to take a grip on the game.

Had Hull scored during that period, there might easily have been a very different result, but football is a game in which the

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confirmation, the referee pointed promptly to the penalty spot.

Mitchell Made No Mistake From Spot

IN former seasons, there has been some fluttering among the Town players when such an award has come their way but that is not the case now.

Mitchell came forward coolly, placed the ball on the spot and, in a flash it was driven low into the net wide of Bly's right hand and the Town were a goal up.

That completed the settling-in process which had taken a good deal longer than is usually the case and the success intensified the determination of the Town to keep Hull at bay.

There was a deal of pressure by the home team after this, but their attack lacked balance and finishing power.

Forwards Cleverly Led By Pye

ON the other hand, the Town forwards moved in clever style with Pye often foxing the Hull defence and distributing the ball with great accuracy.

In fact, the Town looked rather the more likely to score and Moore just failed to get his head to a Mitchell centre when a touch would have meant a goal.

Then, some minutes before the end, we did think that the Town would clinch matters when Pye worked his way past Duthie with great skill and took deliberate aim in the manner which has brought him several goals this season.

Pye Foiled—Then Succeeded

HIT low and true, the ball seemed booked for the corner of the net but, somehow, Bly managed to divert it for a corner, very narrowly wide of the post.

The best chance Hull had after the interval was ruined by over-eagerness when Harrison raced in to head over the bar when Burbanks was measuring his distance and preparing to blast the ball through from about 10 yards.

After that, Hull's hopes of an equaliser virtually ended and "finis" was written three minutes from the end when Pye kept up his scoring record.

Leaders Have Not Equalled This Record

A DOWN-THE-MIDDLE movement between Pye and Moore made it possible, but the ball ran so wide that it seemed almost impossible to get it into the net.

Almost from the dead-line and from a most acute angle, Pye rolled it over the line.

So, the Town's ally of points from the last eight games was taken to 13 and while I am not going to invite disaster by mentioning the word "promotion" it is safe enough to say that even the leaders, Huddersfield Town, have not equalled this record over the similar period.

Fighting Spirit And Good Football

ONCE again, the all-round strength of the Town team was most evident and so was their fighting spirit, allied to good football.

For the defence, there could be nothing but the highest praise for their work under pressure and there was never the slightest suggestion of panic.

Owen was in masterful form and not even the switching of

FOR THE RECORDS

HULL CITY 0
LUTON TOWN 2
Mitchell (pen). Pye.

HULL CITY: Bly; Hassall, Jensen; Harris, Duthie, Durham; Murray, Horton, Harrison, Todd, Burbanks.

LUTON TOWN: Stretton; Dunne, Aherne, Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Moore, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

Referee: G. Gibson, Manchester. Attendance: 22,484.

Harrison, who found a permanent berth in the middle unproductive, worried him.

Harrison roamed about but Owen did the correct thing, in this instance, by not leaving the middle.

Solid Barrier Faced Hull

WHILE this switching did mean at times that there was a Hull forward lying spare, they could not take advantage of it and attack after attack foundered on the fringe of the penalty area.

Owen's head cleared nearly every high centre that came into the goalmouth and he was the pivot on which the defensive system revolved.

Behind him, Dunne and Aherne were solid and unyielding, with the former taking a close grip on Burbanks.

Aherne was too much for fellow-countryman Murray, who was able to achieve little.

Stretton Was At His Best

FROM Stretton, there was a spring-heeled, top-class display which drew him an ovation from the crowd.

In everything he did he was completely confident and his anticipation in snapping up through passes inside the penalty area was never at fault.

This was Stretton at his best and there seldom seemed to be any danger that he would not cope with any situation.

Without quite getting the grip which they usually do, perhaps because so much work came their way, Morton and Shanks were more than adequate.

The switching of Harrison and the wandering of Todd, Hull's most constructive forward, added to Morton's task, but he came through strongly.

Pye Harassed The Hull Defence

FORWARD, the shining light was Pye who, after seeing little of the ball in the first half an hour, began to harass the home defence once the tide started to turn in the Town's favour.

His quick bursts down the wings or down the centre meant constant trouble for Hull and he was quite the most polished forward on the field.

This he accomplished despite the fact that he was not feeling any too well before the match.

From Moore and Watkins, there was a deal of hard, successful work and neither hesitated to come back to help the defence in moments of stress.

Davies Shone In The Second Half

BOTH did well and, from Davies, there was a second-half display way ahead of anything he has produced this season.

With a good service, Davies raided dangerously and threw off the grip which Jensen had threatened to take on him in the early stages.

There was little better in this match than the low, cross-field passes which Mitchell hit to the other wing on several occasions and Davies made the best use of them.

Mitchell, too, contrived to be dangerous and direct, but both he and Pye showed a tendency to be caught in Hull's off-side trap.

However, that was just a minor blemish and this most creditable performance emphasised once again, the grand spirit that the Town have achieved as a team.

Easy Passage For The Reserves

FOR the Reserves, there was no difficulty in recording their 14th win of the season and completing their 19th match without defeat, which is thought to be a record for the Combination.

But for some fine goalkeeping by Newton, the victory would have been greater than 4-1 for the Town were on top almost from the start.

Their goals came from Cullen, Turner, McJarrow and Scott and Cullen had the misfortune to have another goal disallowed on questionable grounds.

The forwards were too fast for the Brentford defence and their defence too strong for the visiting forwards, all of which added up to easy victory. Attendance was 4,868.

"A" Team Unlucky Not To Win

PERHAPS the best performance of the season was recorded by the "A" team in making a draw against unbeaten Windsor and they were somewhat unlucky not to return with both points.

Neville Brown gave the Town the lead with a beautifully-taken goal from Bradley's long pass and looked to have scored again but the referee disallowed it for offside.

This decision caused some comment, for Bradley pulled the ball back to Brown from the dead line.

Windsor's equaliser was a rather fortunate affair since the scorer was in an offside position, but was played on by a deflection by a Town defender.

TREAT FOR CRICKETERS

Bedser Twins Were At Vauxhall

The Bedser twins—Alec and Eric—were the guests at an informal cricket talk organised by the Vauxhall Recreation Club cricket section and held in the Vauxhall Staff Canteen on Saturday evening.

Introducing the famous Surrey pair the chairman, Mr. J. Peppiatt, was careful to identify Alec and Eric to the large audience of both sexes.

Speaking of next year's tests against Australia, Alec said "I think England stands a good chance but not quite so good as some think." The Australians prefer our softer wickets and often play better here than on their own harder, faster grounds.

Alec does not consider Fred Trueman, the present England fast bowler, is as fast yet as the famous Harold Larwood but thinks the young Yorkshireman has plenty of time and chance to improve.

Eric described how the Australian system of club grading gives every boy a chance to be recognised and eligible to play for his country, whereas the England team's selection is confined to County players.

He felt that the extension of League cricket throughout the whole country might encourage the competitive spirit and be the first step towards making it possible for a club-player to be spotted by the M.C.C. selectors.

Eric went on to warn aspiring county players of the hazards involved in professionalism, and advised all good cricketers to have a trade to provide them with a livelihood when their playing days are over.

The audience was entertained by the twins' lively anecdotes about cricketing personalities. The most dramatic moment Alec can remember was in a Test Match at Sydney when he bowled Sir Donald Bradman for a "duck." The Australian crowd was thunderstruck.

Instructional films were shown demonstrating batting by Len Hutton and bowling by Ray and Peter Smith of Essex. The films emphasised the special actions of various strokes and deliveries, and included shots from actual county games.

The chairman thanked the twins for their interesting discussion, and also Tom Clark the Surrey player, for helping to arrange the talk.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

Burnley v Aston Villa
Cardiff City v Manchester U
Liverpool v Arsenal
Manchester City v Charlton Ath
Middlesbrough v Derby County
Newcastle U v Chelsea
Preston N.E. v Sunderland
Sheffield Wednesday v Portsmouth
Stoke City v Wolves
Tottenham Hotspur v Bolton W
West Bromwich v Blackpool

DIVISION II

Birmingham City v Hull City
Bury v Lincoln City
Fulham v Doncaster Rovers
Leeds U v Nottingham Forest
Leicester City v Huddersfield T
Luton T v Blackburn R
Notts C v Sheffield U
Plymouth Argyle v Everton
Rotherham U v Brentford
Southampton v Barnsley
West Ham v Swansea T

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v Bristol City
Bristol Rovers v Southend U
Colchester U v Crystal Palace
Coventry City v Brighton
Exeter City v Watford
Gillingham v Reading
Millwall v Bournemouth
Norwich City v Newport County
Q.P.R. v Northampton T
Shrewsbury T v Leyton O
Swindon T v Torquay U
Walsall v Ipswich T

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington Stanley v Stockport C
Barrow v Carlisle U
Bradford v Crewe Alex

Chesterfield v Rochdale
Grimsby T v Hartlepool U
Halifax T v Scunthorpe U
Mansfield T v Chester
Oldham Ath v Port Vale
Tranmere Rovers v Darlington
Workington v Bradford City
Wrexham v Southport
York City v Gateshead

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v Hearts
Airdrieonians v East Fife
Clyde v Rangers
Falkirk v Queen of South
Hibernian v Dundee
Partick Thistle v Celtic
Raith Rovers v Motherwell
St Mirren v Third Lanark

DIVISION "B"

Alloa v Albion Rovers
Arbroath v Cowdenbeath
Dundee U v Ayr U
Dunfermline v Forfar Ath
Hamilton v Dumbarton
Kilmarnock v St Johnstone
Queen's Park v Morton
Stirling Albion v Stenhousemuir

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Tottenham, Birmingham, Fulham, Bristol Rovers, Millwall, Norwich, Grimsby, Tranmere

FOUR AWAY.—Wolves, Sheffield U, Reading, Stockport.

THREE DRAWS.—Cardiff v Manchester U, Q.P.R. v Northampton, Barrow v Carlisle.