

Loyalties May Be Divided

MANY WANT TO SEE RESERVES:

MITCHELL RECALLED

Probably many Town supporters' loyalties will be divided this week-end. Undoubtedly many will take advantage of the nearness of the West Ham ground to make the trip to see the first team hunting for more vital League points, but others, having followed the fortunes of the Reserves consistently, will want to see them meet their chief rivals, Leicester City, at Kenilworth-road.

Piquancy it added to this duel by the fact that a win by the Town will virtually assure them of the championship of the Football Combination's Division II.

However, apart from the interest attaching to the great feat of the second string this season, the limelight will be full on the seniors, playing only their second match in London this season, and hundreds of their fans will be there to see them try to hold the Hammers.

In view of the February programme, when Leicester and Huddersfield both have to visit Luton, the vital nature of Saturday's meeting is clear, and a win to the Town would give their promotion hopes a really bright look.

For it, they are recalling Bert Mitchell, who missed the Cup-tie because of an ankle injury, but proved that he is fit and back to form by the way he played for the Reserves at Swansea.

Taylor Has Done His Part Well

THIS means that Arthur Taylor, deputy for two matches, stands down, but, announcing the change yesterday, Manager Dally Duncan emphasised that Taylor had done a good job, and that the experience will stand him in good stead.

After all, he was one of the heroes of the Cup victory, and although he did not achieve the same success last Saturday, he was on the winning side again, and should not be downhearted at his omission.

Mitchell, at his best, is a real match-winner and, of course, has vast experience behind him which is a great asset at this critical stage of the season.

Turner Retained At Inside-Left

AS his partner, Mitchell, will have Gordon Turner, and the line of thought behind retaining him in the inside-left position in preference to Charlie Watkins is obviously that it would be unfair to leave him out after only one chance.

Turner might easily have scored a couple of goals on Saturday, and against such a rugged defensive side as West Ham, his opportunity may well turn out to be valuable.

Watkins, rested last week, plays at inside-left for the Reserves, a move that certainly does not preclude his selection for the Cup team at Manchester on Saturday week, as the manager pointed out to me yesterday.

Fourth Different Left-Wing Partnership

SO, for the fourth match in succession, the Town will have a different left-wing partnership and the policy of all-out attack may pay big dividends against West Ham, who rely so much on defensive tactics.

Team: Baynam; Jones, Abernethy, Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Moore, Pye, Turner, Mitchell.

Yesterday, as a break from the usual training routine, the players were playing golf at Harpenden and golf will be the only variation of their training for next week's Cup-tie.

Tim Kelly, the Town's assistant manager and coach, will be running the rule over Manchester City in their home match with Middlesbrough on Saturday.

West Ham Hope For Return Of Foan

PRESUMABLY in the hope that Foan, their inside-left who has made such rapid strides during the last few weeks, will be passed fit to play, West Ham are delaying final selection of their team until later to-day.

Luton Greyhounds

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR SATURDAY

6.30 (40yds)—3F1 Black Flash, 313 Charlie H., 13. Muriel (Jan. 14, to 2, 25.50), 436 River Bank, 231 Tony, 663 Wm's Boy, reserve 424 Charmous.
6.50 (40yds)—654 Billy Low, 6F3 Brookdale, 232 Half-Pint, 141 Lutz Blackie, 341 Roger Boy, 456 Spring.
7.10 (40yds)—Butterfly (Jan. 15, to 2, 24.97), Jan. 17, to 4, 24.12, 23 Jimmy J., 151 Jupiter, 12 Nicker, 1 Pat Will (Jan. 10, to 1, 24.75), Jan. 17, to 2, 25.05, 1 Jan. 17, to 4, 24.63, 544 King Kong, 222 Reviver, 641 Singer, 7.10 (40yds)—121 Cross Kew, 345 Gladiator, 151 Greenings, 623 It's Easy, 122 Please Do, 22 Tiny, reserve 144 Fly Boy.
7.50 (40yds)—466 Black Jack, 212 Chance Boy, 611 Gun Smoke, 311 Kik-Kal, 115 Steady Barker, 213 Tiger, 8.10 (40yds)—Gambler (Jan. 15, to 2, 24.78), Jan. 17, to 4, 24.12, 23 Jimmy J., 151 Jupiter, 12 Nicker, 1 Pat Will (Jan. 10, to 1, 24.75), Jan. 17, to 2, 25.05, 1 Jan. 17, to 4, 24.63, 544 King Kong, 222 Reviver, 641 Singer, 7.10 (40yds)—121 Cross Kew, 345 Gladiator, 151 Greenings, 623 It's Easy, 122 Please Do, 22 Tiny, reserve 144 Fly Boy.
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8.50 (40yds)—244 Chance, 551 Echo, 45 Leona (Jan. 14, to 1, 24.97), 234 Lone Eagle, 614 Petty Officer, 613 Yolande, reserve 45 Gypsy.
SELECTIONS
6.30. Tony (Black Flash, Muriel); 6.50. Steady Barker (Low, Roger Boy); 7.10. King Kong (nap) (Singer, Reviver); 7.30. Gladiator (Greenings, Please Do); 7.50. Steady Barker (Gun Smoke, Tracer); 8.10. Jupiter (Nicker, Pat Will); 8.30. Bill Badger (Tip-Saw, Coeur de Lion); 8.50. Petty Officer (Echo, Yolande).

F.A. CUP—4th ROUND
MANCHESTER CITY
VERSUS
LUTON TOWN
THE BOBBERS' STAND CLUB
SPECIAL TRAIN
to
MANCHESTER
on JANUARY 31st
BOOK YOUR SEATS NOW
FARE 25/-
Those travelling on this train will be able to purchase a ticket for the Grand Stand. Apply to The Steward, Bobbers' Stand Club, or J. Collier, 6a, Cromwell Road, Luton.
Tickets available on and after Saturday, Jan. 24.
Train leaves Luton 8.29 a.m., arrives Manchester 12.59. Depart Manchester 5.25, arrive Luton 9.25
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A THROUGH TRAIN
J. COLLIER,
Hon. Treasurer,
Bobbers' Stand Club

coaching of the two teams had a lot to do with the successful results they were achieving.

"We went along for a good many years without a lot of coaching, but having taken the plunge last year and appointed a coach, I think we are reaping the benefits now," he said.

There was a tribute, too, to the voluntary work put in by the medical officer, solicitor and auditors.

Other than the Directors, only two shareholders attended the meeting, which lasted only a little over half an hour.

Vauxhall Hope To Avenge Cup Defeat

ENCOURAGED by their success at Leitchworth last week, Vauxhall Motors look forward with some measure of confidence to their difficult home match on Saturday, when Ware, unbeaten in the Spartan League this season, are their opponents.

An earlier meeting between the teams was in the Amateur Cup at Ware, where the Hertfordshire side were rather fortunate odd-goal winners.

Satisfied with their performance at Leitchworth, Vauxhall are making no change. Team:

D. Johnston; K. Starlin, J. Burgess; L. Ward, J. Humphrey, E. Lawrence; R. Chappin, A. Morgan, G. Todd, R. Brandham, E. James.

Amateur Seem To Have Easier Task

WHILE Vauxhall are taking on a really formidable opposition, Luton Amateur should have a fairly easy passage in their home match with Sawbridgeworth, who are bottom of Division I of the Spartan League.

Compared with the team that gained a third victory over Stansted last week, there is one change, Peter Smith being rested and Lou Jackson taking over at inside-right. Team:

A. Jones; B. Hurst, T. Kirby; A. Allen, B. Spavins, A. Rakowski; K. Crawley, L. Jackson, G. Clare, J. Williams, P. Panter.

Schoolboys' Match At Plymouth

FACING the long journey to the West Country this week-end for their English Schools Shield tie with Plymouth Schoolboys at Home Park are Luton Schoolboys.

Before the team was finally selected, a full-scale trial was held last Saturday morning and some changes, mostly positional, are being made.

Pain, who has been injured and did not take part in the trial, becomes one of the reserves, and Thomas moves from inside-right to his original position.

Whitby goes from centre-forward to inside-left, Grange from inside-left to inside-right, and Tomlinson will lead the attack. Goal, Evans takes over from the injured Frost.

Team: Evans (Surrey-street); Harry (Tech), Elliman (Grammar); Thomas (Icklefield), Smith, Ellis (Tech); Gersch (Tech), Grange (Denbigh-road), Tomlinson (Tech), Whitby (Old Bedford-road), Head (Grammar).

Reserves: Stevens (Grammar), Hetherington (Stopsley), Pain (Tech).

Seeking Progress In F.A. Youth Cup

SEEKING a place in the last 16 of the F.A. Youth Cup on the Vauxhall new ground on Saturday morning will be the Vauxhall Youth XI who have high hopes of accounting for Huntley and Palmer.

Vauxhall reached this stage by beating Great Yarmouth 6-1 and Eynesbury 3-1, both away, and the visitors' previous victims were Polytechnic 10-0 and Headington 4-3.

Vauxhall's team will be: Lake; Odell or Clarke; Bacon; Floyd, Bland, Siafield; Fennome, Waterfield, Gilks; Motto, Franklin.

Old Lutonians Made Experiments

EXPERIMENTS with three new players are being made by Old Lutonians R.F.C. for their match with the Borderers at Uxbridge, trials being given to Hill, Bracey and Pakes, while Adkins takes over the unfamiliar role of full-back. Team:

Adkins; Hine, Lyons, Thorpe, Thurlow; Edmonds, Bracey; Shepherd, Vaughan, Hill, Fennome, Heanue, Cato, Pakes, Kelly.

Both Luton's 1st XV and Extra "A" have home matches with Bedford Athletic, and the senior team will be:

Skinner; D. Oakley, H. G. Jones, Hewison, Hawkes; T. P. Le. Continued pressure kept the Old Boys inside their visitors' "25" and intelligent handling by Adkins enabled Shepherd to score a second try.

At half-time the Hospital withdrew a man from the scrum to assist with defence but this was to no avail as Lyons again scored. The extra points were again added by Adkins.

Two further tries came from Youngs and Adkins. The backs also were receiving their fair share of the ball and two tries came from Thorpe in the centre, despite the presence of the extra defender.

BACK DIVISION STRUCK TOP FORM

Old Lutonians' 35, Charing Cross Hospital 0

In this game, played under the most pleasant conditions for many weeks, the Hospital were unfortunate to meet the Old Lutonians back division in tip-top form.

Forward, the Hospital were much stronger and for the first five minutes of the game attacked vigorously. It was, therefore, against the run of play when, from a tight scrum, the ball travelled the length of the Old Boys' three-quarter line to Thurlow who, finding his way blocked, passed inside. Thorpe was there to take the pass and he scored between the posts. Adkins converted.

From this point the Old Boys main-

MAKINGS OF GOOD SIDE

Leighton Buzzard 3, Vauxhall Motors 34

The side that played a weak Leighton Buzzard XV could become a really effective combination if they concentrated more on team-work and less on individualism.

The Vauxhall forwards kept well up with play and managed to feed their backs successfully. But their play in the lines-out and loose scrums was not good enough, and against a strong set of forwards they would have been in trouble.

The conditions were ideal for fast, open rugby and right from the start Vauxhall dictated the play. Leitchworth were weak in defence and the Motors' backs were able to break through time and time again. Had it not been for the exceptional play of Leitchworth's full-back they would have scored more tries. Continued pressure kept the Old Boys inside their visitors' "25" and intelligent handling by Adkins enabled Shepherd to score a second try.

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POOR SHOW BY LUTON

Previous meetings with Town-ester have always been closely contested, and have often produced some good rugby, but on this occasion the home team ran riot.

Luton's defence was weak, and the enthusiastic Town-ester forwards were quick to exploit these shortcomings.

Luton were not without scoring opportunities and, indeed, there were some excellent passing movements, but the whole team lacked the requisite punch in attack and, consequently, could not convert.

With a bustling set of forwards and a co-ordinated back division Town-ester were worthy victors. Had Luton been infused with some of the fire that was evident in their opponents, then there would have been a much closer result.



BERT MITCHELL, recalled to the first team.

A POINT WELL EARNED

Mitchell Shows Bright Form

Swansea Town Reserves... 1
Luton Town Reserves... 1

This was regarded as being one of the Town Reserves' most formidable tasks of the season, for Swansea are likely to be one of the teams to accompany Luton and Leicester into Division I of the Football Combination.

Changes which deprived them of the services of Dunne and Turner did not seem to improve the Town's prospects, but they put up a great fight, thoroughly earned the point they gained and were a trifle unlucky not to return with both.

Had the half-backs struck the form they have been showing for most of this season, this would probably have been the case, but Hall was less sure than usual, and Kelly and Smith did not really get a complete grip on things.

Even so, there was not a deal of scope for the Swansea forward line, mostly composed of youngsters, though Alf Bellis, formerly of Port Vale and Bury, who was once a Luton "guest" player, brought experience to the line.

Both Cooke and Thompson turned in extremely good displays, and Stretton, showing excellent anticipation, did all that was required.

Shining lights of the forward line were the left-wing pair Pemberton and Mitchell, and there was a good deal of satisfaction about the way in which the latter played after his lay-off through injury.

All through the match he gave Dewsbury a thoroughly uncomfortable time, and he received solid support from Pemberton, who used the ball most accurately throughout the match.

MITCHELL secured the goal that saved the Town a point after Swansea had taken the lead just before the interval.

That goal, obtained from close range, was debited against Hall in the first instance, but, in fact, he did not touch the ball and the scorer was JONES (C.).

There was skilful leadership of the forwards by McJarrow, and patches of brilliant football from the line as a whole, though Cullen and Sexton were in only moderate form.

McJarrow had a chance to win the game when he broke clean through with a brilliant run, but finished weakly by shooting straight at Edwards.

SWANSEA TOWN RESERVES—Edwards; Dewsbury, Keane; Henning, Lloyd, Pearson; Allchurch (L.), Hole, Jones (B.), Jones (C.), Bellis.

LUTON TOWN RESERVES—Stretton; Cooke, Thompson; Kelly, Hall, Smith; Cullen, Sexton, McJarrow, Pemberton, Mitchell.

STOPSLEY CAUSE ANOTHER CADDINGTON SETBACK

Loss Of Point By Shillington Opens Up The Title Race

Fast losing their grip on the leadership of Luton and South Beds League's Premier Division are Caddington, beaten on Saturday by Stopsley who, as a result, put themselves into the championship picture.

To give the Luton side more than an outside chance which they hold at present, there will have to be more slips by Shillington such as the one that befell them in dropping a point to Limbury O.B.

This was only the second match out of 13 in the League this season that Shillington had failed to win, and the performance of the Old Boys was one of the best recorded.

Stopsley's success was consolation for their dismissal from the Bedfordshire Intermediate Cup the previous week and one of the semi-finalists in that competition, Eaton Bray, showed their power in administering a heavy defeat on last year's champions, Napier Sports.

The pill was not quite so bitter from Napier's point of view in that they were a player short throughout the match, but even so Eaton Bray played extremely well.

By no means out of the running for the title are Taddington Rovers, who maintained their consistent form in winning a high-scoring match with Hitchin-road O.B.

In Division I, there is no stopping Tottenham, in winning at Shillington, they put up a good performance as a result of which they maintained their substantial lead which only Glendale give real promise of being able to whittle down.

Leagrave B.L. hold second place at the moment, but their leeway amounts to six points.

The position in Division II remains unchanged as both Bells Park and Chaul End Athletic picked up both points. The latter reached double figures and recorded their twelfth consecutive League win of the season.

A change of leadership occurred in Division III, where Hockliffe take over, but it is likely to be only temporary for they have the advantage of only one point over Stopsley Reserves, who have three matches in hand.

A closer than usual struggle awaited Division IV leaders, Sundon Park, in visiting Rootes Reserves, and their odd-goal win enabled them to maintain their useful lead over Bidwell, who also registered a victory.

PREMIER DIVISION
STOPSLEY 4 (Bowles, R. Manon, Gustard, Pugh), CADDINGTON 2 (Fullarton 2)
NAPIER SPORTS 2 (Weston, Duffy), EATON BRAY 7 (Gilbert 3, Ruffett 2, Thorne 2)
LIMBURY O.B. 1, SHILLINGTON 1 (Pitt)
LUTON SOCIAL 2 (B Jackson 2), DAGNALL 3 (Munt, B Osborn, Cullen)
HITCHIN-ROAD O.B. 3 (Warren, Bird, Cross), TODDINGTON ROV 5 (A. Conquest 3, R. Conquest, Rowe)

DIVISION II
LAPORTE 1 (Millet), SUNDON ST. MARY'S 2 (Hull, Allen)
WEST PARK 4 (S. Vince 3, Fennome), ENGLISH ELECTRIC PIONEER CORINTHIANS 2 (Buckingham, Smith), LEAGRAVE B.L. 3 (Brown, Kent, Currie)
SHILLINGTON "A" 2 (Hare, D. TOTTERNHOO 4 (H. Wills, 2, Wills, Curson, opponents)
GLENDALE 2 (Gore 2, R.A.F.A. 0)

DIVISION III
CHAUL END ATH 13 (Camer 4, Beasley 4, Harris 3, Cluer, Bangs), PERCEVAL ATH 1 (Douglas)
WARDEN HILL ATH 1 (Millon), LILLEY RANGERS 6 (B Carr 2, Offer 2, Saunders, Payne)
BELLS PARK 5 (S Fennome 2, White, Pratt, R Fennome), LUTON SOCIAL RES 1 (Taylor)

UNUSUAL FEAT BY LESLIE JONES

Scored The Goal That Set Town On Winning Path

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2 FULHAM 0

Only three times in the last 18 matches have the Town tasted defeat and, apart from one short spell in the first half, they were never in danger of sampling it when they received Fulham at Kenilworth-road. Fulham missed their chance during five minutes when Stevens struck the bar and Robson, who should have scored, sent the ball against the inside of the post.

Those incidents apart, Fulham always looked to be on the losing end, for the Town were a more virile, dangerous combination. They had fewer weaknesses, better understanding and more punch in attack.

From the start, the Town began moving the ball about quickly, tactics admirably suited to the sticky conditions and they always made ground by direct methods, whereas Fulham often relied too much on the short pass and tended to play across the field.

For a full-back to score other than from a penalty or a free-kick, is an unusual occurrence, but JONES did so when the Fulham defence was caught off guard from a corner.

Instead of ballooning the ball into the crowded goalmouth, Davies pulled it back and Jones, rushing up at speed, found the net with a high shot, that bounced in off the underpart of the bar with Flack probably badly unsighted.

That was after 20 minutes and happened before the couple of narrow escapes experienced by the Town.

FLACK KEPT BUSY
Once over that, the Town got a grip again and Flack, a late choice as goalkeeper, made at least three first-class saves from efforts that deserved goals.

However, he was nowhere near the ball when MOORE increased the lead five minutes before the interval with an extremely well-placed shot after Taylor (A.) had pushed the ball back to him.

In the first minute of the second half only an agile dive by Flack prevented Pye from getting his usual goal and hard though he tried, the centre-forward could not score.

Without being able to look really dangerous, Fulham had quite a reasonable share of the second half play and it was seldom that Baynam was in any kind of trouble.

Other goals to the Town looked far more likely, but although the Fulham goal had some narrow escapes, they did not arrive.

The soundness of their defence was a feature of the Town display and, in the last two home League games, they have not conceded a goal.

Right through, there was no weakness and the supremacy which the middle line achieved had much to do with keeping the score-sheet blank.

The dangerous Jezzard was allowed little room in which to operate by Owen, who was always there to bar the way while Morton, immensely strong in the tackle, saw to it that Brennan had little opportunity of making a successful come-back to the ground on which he played so many times in the Town colours.

BIG SUCCESS OF JONES
Robson had no more success against the busy Shanks and the close-marking and good covering of the defence was there for all to see.

For Jones, there was one of the most trying tests he has yet faced in opposing the famous Mitten, and he gave further proof of his great ability by shutting the great almost completely out of the game.

This was done in classic style and it is obvious that Jones has come to stay.

APART from one uncertain patch, Abernethy was confident and assured and Baynam, not kept very busy by the Fulham forwards, did everything that was required of him, apart from one blemish in the first half when he was lucky to get away with an error.

The more forceful and progressive wing was that formed by Davies and Moore, both of whom played well and the former's speed gave Lowe (R.) an uncomfortable afternoon.

Naturally, Pye's scoring feats are bringing him more and more attention from opposing defenders, but he will not often face such a fine centre-half as Jim Taylor.

The Fulham man was much more successful than previous centre-halves have been against Pye, but, despite this and the fact that the support for him was not of the best, Pye was always a menace to the visitors' defence.

Unfortunately, Arthur Taylor's display fell some way below that of his debut the previous week, particularly in the quality of his finishing, which was very much off the mark.

Turner rather fell away after a good first half and the new partnership could scarcely be termed a success, though it might well be given time in which to settle down.

LUTON TOWN: Baynam; Jones, Abernethy; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Moore, Pye, Turner, Taylor.

FULHAM: Flack; Pavitt, Lowe (R.); Lowe (E.), Taylor (J), Hill; Stevens, Robson, Jezzard, Brennan, Mitten.

Referee: R.J. Burgess, Reading. Attendance: 21,409.

LEADERS HAD A SHOCK

There were set-backs for two of the leading teams in the Premier Division of the South Midlands League on Saturday. Arlesey Town, the champions and present leaders, suffered a reverse at Shefford and as a result the home team, who were already in second place, have moved to within a point of the leaders.

Second surprise was the defeat of Kent's Athletic by Potters. Although Potters are having a successful season they were not expected to beat the Luton club and they did well to win by the odd goal in three.

By accounting for Kempton Rovers, Bedford Corinthians collected two more points and, although they are still in bottom place, they have a good chance of handing over their unenviable position to another club before the season ends. At the moment it looks as if Leitchworth might be cropping up in the table before long.

Biggleswade Town, Houghton Rangers and Electrolux all won in Division I but Cranfield United, who have been challenging strongly, were beaten by Hitchin and their defeat has opened up the position again, although they are still nicely placed.

PREMIER DIVISION
AC-Deleo 1, Bedford Tn "A" 2
Baldoct Tn 2, Peartree Old Boys 1
Electrolux 2, Shefford 1
Dunstable Tn 4, Harpenden Utd 0
Kent's Ath 1, Potters Utd 2
Shefford Tn 1, Arlesey Tn 0
Stony Stratford Spis 2, Ampthill Tn 4

DIVISION I
Arlesey Tn 7, Bedford St. Cuthbert's 4
Queen's Works 3, St. Neots St. M 1
Electrolux 7, Shefford 1
Histon 2, Canfield Utd 1
Houghton Rnrs 8, Marston Shelton 3
Langford 2, Vauxhall Motors 1
Percival Ath 2, Biggleswade Tn 5

DIVISION II
Britannia Works 3, Fittwick Ath 1
Bitchley B.B.O.B. 9, Queen's Works 2
Elstow Abbey 10, AC-Deleo 0
Leighton Utd 5, Bedford North End 2
Davis Ath 1, Baldoct Tn 4
Skefko Ath 3, Stewarby Works 1
Marston Shelton 1, Wootton B Cross 8
Peartree Old Boys 1, Kent's Ath 1

LUTON ARGYLE IN SECOND PLACE

Luton Argyle have moved into second place in the 14-18 Section of Luton Youth League and are only one point behind Vauxhall Colts, with Luton Town Youth XI and Limbury O.B. also well in the running.

Caddington Y.C. and Langley Rangers are withdrawing from the League.

In the 14-16 Section Langley Rangers have crept to within a point of Poynters-road, and have a game in hand.