

NO FLYING START BY TOWN THIS TIME

Forwards' First Blank Sheet For Four Months

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN ... 0 BOLTON WANDERERS 1

What the Town badly needed in this fifth round F.A. Cup-tie at Kenilworth-road was the sort of flying start they gained when they met Blackburn Rovers and Manchester City on the same ground.

A single goal in the early stages would have helped on their cause considerably, but despite the fact that they opened in much the more brighter style, the success that might well have turned the tide in their favour just did not come.

The odd chance came their way such as the one when Moore was sent through beautifully by Pye, but his shot had more strength than accuracy of direction and Hanson, who narrowed the angle, managed to beat the ball away.

Perhaps, when one looks back, that was one of the turning points of a game that lacked the normal amount of thrills usually expected from a Cup-tie.

Conditions after the heavy snowfall undoubtedly had much to do with this, but there was a lot of negative football on both sides that led only to stalemate against two strong defences.

To a large extent, the Town were far too preoccupied in getting the ball to Pye which, combined with the hope that he would be able to take Barrass away from the middle, was an essential part of the Town's plan of campaign.

Certainly Pye took Barrass away from his sentry-go in the middle of the field, but there were occasions when it was perfectly obvious that the centre-forward had not done so with the intention of receiving the ball.

LEFT SPACE FOR INSIDE MEN

By moving out of the middle, he had left a space for his inside forward partners, but almost invariably the ball followed him even though he was covered.

One of the old football edicts is that it is not the man with the ball who is the danger, and this was something that the Town's inside forwards and others forgot in this game.

In the end the Bolton defence, and Barrass in particular, won the tactical battle and that accounts in large measure for the Town's first failure to score for four months.

With Pye largely held, the inside men should have been able to prosper, but Turner's midfield play was poor and it seems that, in most matches, unless he is getting goals, he cannot be counted as a success.

Moore, too, was a good deal below what we know to be his best form and there were few examples of the quick break-through which his speed and strength enable him to make.

Neither did he, in the second half especially, make ground down the wing, ready for the pass from Cullen, which, if it had brought no concrete effect, would, at least, have had the virtue of taking Bell away from the middle of the field.

Tactically, the play of the Town forwards in this match was wrong, and they paid the penalty of breaking down continually when they reached the region of the penalty area.

Certainly, let us give credit to the staunch defensive work of the Wanderers, but do not let us forget that the wing-halves were

allowed to assume a mastery which played a considerable part in the eventual destination of the spoils.

WING-HALVES STAYED ON TOP

Wheeler and Bell got right on top and stayed there and as a result the Town forward line looked more innocuous than it has been since those early weeks of the season.

Man who looked as if he might pull the game out of the fire was Mitchell, but adequate support was not forthcoming.

Cullen had his moments when his clever footwork took him past Higgins, but his finishing was not good and this was something that was common all along the front line.

Pye tried his best, but the combination of the attentions of Barrass and the lack of support he received meant that there was not the usual threat from him.

He was unlucky with a header that Hanson caught one-handed, as was Mitchell with a terrific drive that skimmed the cross-bar, but, in the main, the Town attack was very much shackled by the Wanderers' stalwart defence.

LOFTHOUSE'S ANTICIPATION

The goal that settled the issue came after 32 minutes and was one worthy of the occasion for LOFTHOUSE took the Town defence by surprise by the way in which he got off the mark and anticipated perfectly Moir's loobed pass that he headed brilliantly into the corner of the net.

Apart from this somewhat unexpected happening, there was little wrong with the Town defence. Morton was again outstanding and Watkins played a most adequate part in the other wing-half position.

Back to the side after missing three matches, Owen had a rare battle with Lofthouse and came out from it very well after a gallant display.

So well did Aherne play that little was seen of Holden as a raiding force and much more danger came from Langton after a first half when, relying on orthodox methods, he did not cause Jones a lot of trouble.

Afterwards, his excursions across the field and his liking for wandering had a somewhat unsettling effect on the right back, who, nevertheless, did creditably, taking the game through.

Baynham left in the sort of position in which most goalkeepers would have been beaten when the decisive goal came, played his part well and, as did Hanson, risked injury several times to save a ticklish situation.

In the end, no one had real grounds for complaint about the result, except that more had been expected from the Town attack.

LUTON TOWN. — Baynham; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Cullen, Moore, Pye, Turner, Mitchell.

BOLTON WANDERERS. — Hanson; Hartle, Higgins; Wheeler, Barrass, Bell; Holden, Moir, Lofthouse, Hassall, Langton.

Referee.—A. Bond, London.
Attendance.—23,735.