

TOWN DID NOT STRIKE THEIR BEST FORM

CONDITIONS HAD BIG PART IN DEFEAT

Helped Barrass Get Grip On Pye And Company

Luton Town - - 0 Bolton Wands. - 1

By Chiltern

JUST when we hoped the Town would rise to the occasion and cause the exit of another set of First Division opponents they failed to strike anything approaching their best form in attack in the Cup-tie with Bolton Wanderers this afternoon.

Result was that they went out of the Cup by the only goal of a rather disappointing game, scored by England's leader Nat Lofthouse, after 32 minutes.

On a Christmas cake-looking sort of pitch conditions were all against the streamline type of football the Town have been playing in attack for the greater part of this season.

The conditions slowed down the game and helped the Bolton defence to keep a grip on Pye and company. We have seen before what has happened when Jesse Pye has been largely held by an opposing centre-half, and it came about again this afternoon, when Barrass gave him little or no scope.

With the schemer of the line largely out of commission, the result was raggedness and not many ideas of breaking down a defence that was extremely sound.

One or two chances cropped up—the most obvious being early on, when Moore crashed the ball against Hanson—but on the whole, the better opportunities came Bolton's way.

Taking the game through, they were just about value for their narrow success, though with anything approaching their usual punch in the front line the Town could have at least forced a replay.

The way things were going was emphasised a quarter of an hour from the end, when Morton was switched into the attack, but even he seemed to be lost in the crowd in the Bolton penalty area.

None of the inside trio was particularly impressive, and Mitchell was more dangerous than Cullen.

There was nothing to complain about so far as the Town defence was concerned, with Owen making a good job of holding Lofthouse.

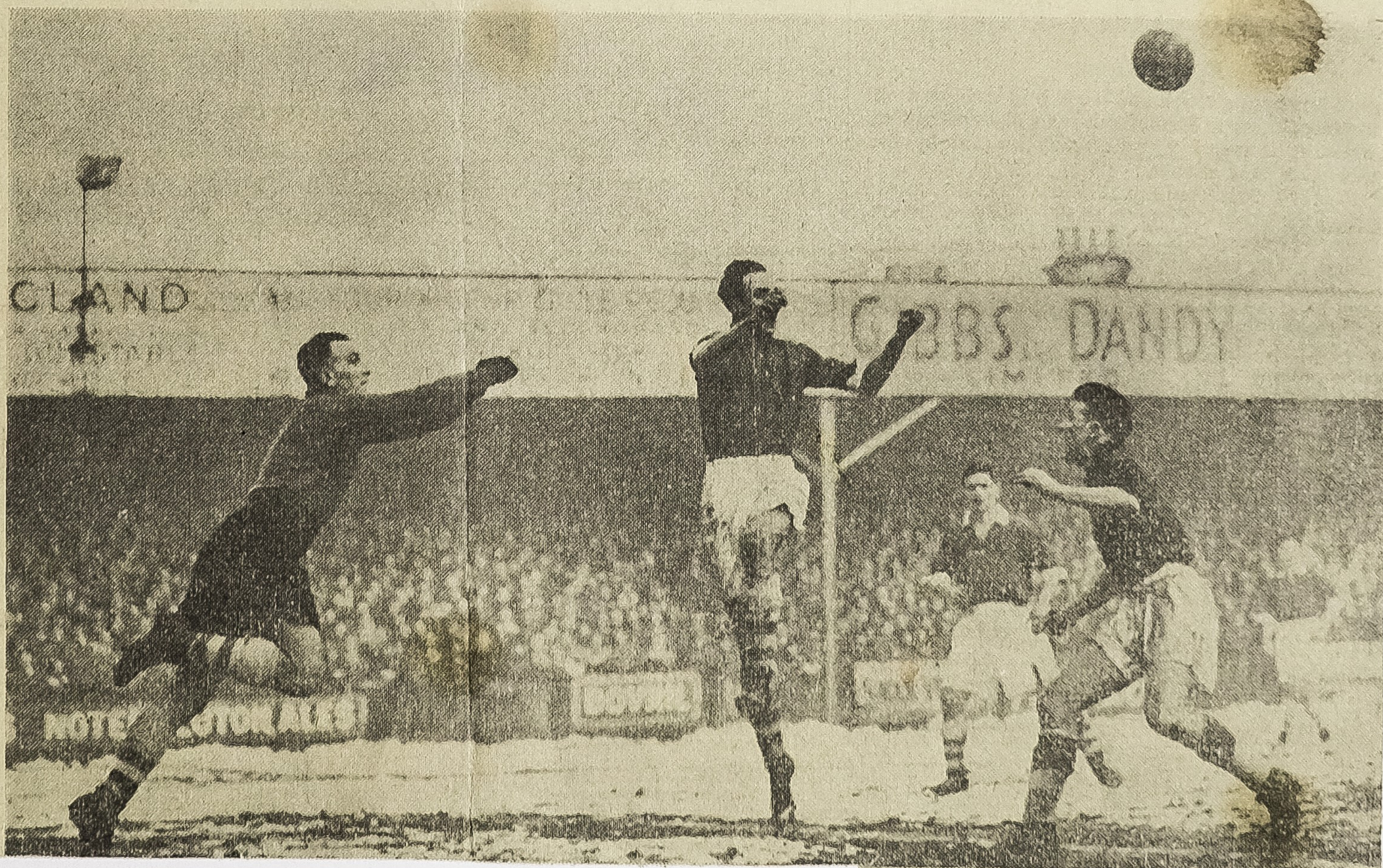
Morton was again outstanding, and between them he and Jones kept the England left wing of Hassall and Langton quiet throughout the first half.

Langton came a good deal more into the game after the interval, when Bolton looked more likely to score than did the Town, because they made more use of the open spaces and were not afraid to try the long pass, which was largely neglected by the Town forwards, who kept the ball too close, and broke down continually at the edge of the penalty area.

Aherne mastered Holden, and Baynham did not have by any means a hectic afternoon.

It was a long way from being the thriller we had expected, but the Town went out fighting, although there were few occasions when they promised to draw level once they had gone into arrears.

Official attendance was 23,735, considerably fewer than had been expected. Reason for this could be laid at the door of the weather and the uncertainty about whether the game would be on.



Bolton's goalkeeper, Hanson, punches out a full-blooded drive, while another defender does a "jig." On the right, wearing a foiled expression, is Michael Cullen, Luton's outside-right.