

THE TRAFFIC WAS MOSTLY ONE WAY

Inexperienced Barnsley No Match For The Town

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 6 BARNSELEY 0

This very nearly came into the category of the slaughter of the innocents, for Barnsley had far too great a leavening of inexperience to provide anything more than a reasonably serious practice match for the Town.

Or, at least, that was the impression this game left, with the Town winning in a canter and rarely seeming in the slightest danger of conceding a goal.

Apart from the satisfaction the fans took from seeing the Town among the goals again after their comparatively barren patch, this was not the sort of meeting the average supporter would want to see every week.

Once the Town took the lead, the exchanges became too one-sided, with the exception of occasional Barnsley breakaway to be really interesting and the only cause for wonderment at the end was how Barnsley escaped with only six goals to add to their "against" column.

Some exuberance by the Barnsley forwards in the early stages, including one slick passing movement that had the Town defence in real trouble for almost the only time during the afternoon, was amply countered by two quick blows Turner struck in the 16th and 18th minutes.

Before this, the Town had not been moving any too smoothly. Their passing of the lively ball was sending it anywhere but where it was intended, but the successes steadied the line and began a long spell of good football.

TOO HOT TO HOLD

A switch out to the left-wing by Pye brought the first and TURNER was waiting by the far post to head through coolly the accurate centre when it came across.

Two minutes later, Mitchell made a drive that Hough found too hot to hold and when the ball ran loose, TURNER was there to tap it into the net.

Then, with 31 minutes gone, a low centre by Mitchell found WATKINS unmarked and the inside-left did the rest to score his first goal since the one he obtained at Barnsley in October.

After one or two raids in the early part of the second half, Barnsley were quickly forced to resume their defensive role and YUELL tried to stave off the disaster threatened by another Pye centre. Instead, he crashed the ball past the surprised Hough to put the Town four up after 61 minutes.

There followed a period in which more goals always seemed likely to come the Town's way, but the next success was delayed for a quarter of an hour.

Then, a slip by McNeil left CULLEN facing Hough and he calmly took the ball around the goalkeeper before triumphantly driving it into the net.

Four minutes later CULLEN completed the scoring, again from close range and again with Hough left hopelessly placed after a defensive lapse.

This victory marked the completion of the Town's third "double" of the season and, judged on this showing, there was no weak link in the team.

BLANK SHEET WITHOUT DIFFICULTY

No fault could be found with the re-organised defence which kept a blank sheet without any obvious difficulty and Hall again showed just how unfortunate he has been to have to put up with such a prolonged spell of reserve team service.

Morton and Owen were much in command and so much were their visiting inside-forwards under a cloud in the second half that both were able to join in the Town's attacks.

In keeping a watch on Kaye, Pemberton probably had the hardest task of the Town defenders, but his coolness and shrewd positional play gave no hint of the many changes of position he has been called upon to make this season.

On the other flank, Jones had an easy, highly competent match and Baynham will seldom go through 90 minutes with so little of a difficult nature with which to deal.

For the right-wing pair of Cullen and Turner with four goals between them, this was something of a field-day, but due regard should be paid to the work of the two who did not find the net, Pye and Mitchell.

Both laid on excellent chances and Watkins was another who set many attacks going, and his return to the forward line has certainly had the effect of bringing more ordered play.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Jones, Pemberton; Morton, Hall, Owen; Cullen, Turner, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

BARNSELEY: Hough; Yuell, Thomas; Smith, McNeil, Archer; Kaye, Bartlett, Chappell, Lumley, Smyllie.

Referee, W. Clements, West Bromwich.

Attendance: 15,315.