

EASIEST - WON POINTS OF SEASON

TOWN COASTED HOME AGAINST BARNESLEY

Success Revives Hopes Of Promotion A Little

By Chiltern

It often has the Town had two League points fall into their lap quite so easily as they did in the match with Barnsley, whose defeat at Kenilworth-road just about made them a certainty for another spell of Northern Section football.

For the poorest team we have seen on the ground this season, Barnsley offered no real resistance after the opening period and were lucky to escape further goals being scored against them.

A quiet period so far as concerns the Town, but so weak was the opposition that this was no sort of a check by which to measure prospects.

Finally, the re-introduction of the forward line into the forward line, a long way towards the things right in this direction, and the success makes one wonder what the situation would have been had Watkins been back earlier, or conversely, had Shanks not been unable enough to meet with

Turner Snaps Up His Scoring Chances

WHATEVER criticism there may be at times about his general play, he qualifies for all marks when it comes to the ball into the net and the fact that he has done so 13 times in 14 first team matches is just what a striking force he is.

Two goals between the 16th and 20th minutes effectively broke Barnsley resistance and put the Town well on the way to their victory.

On each occasion, Turner was admirably placed in the right spot to take advantage of openings. He made the first with one of his runs down the left wing and came that Turner adroitly well out of Hough's

Watkins's First Since The Previous Meeting

MAIN credit for the second goal goes to Mitchell who made a great drive from outside the penalty area that Hough could not hold and Turner, again that uncanny positional sense was there to tap the rebound.

That, it was heavy weather

for the Barnsley defence who could not cope with the quickness in which the Town raids developed and more good work by Mitchell paved the way for a goal by Watkins, his first since the previous meeting with Barnsley on October 25.

From something approaching the inside-right position, Watkins ran on to a low cross from his wing partner and Hough was again left hopelessly placed.

Barnsley Forwards Made Little Progress

AS had been the case in the early part of the first half, Barnsley's forwards were livelier soon after the interval, but their new-found forcefulness did not last, nor get them far against the solid, stern tackling Town defence.

It was not long before the Town attack got in full cry again to produce more panic in the Barnsley defence.

A desperate clearance by Yuell when Pye crossed the ball in front of goal sent the ball flashing into his own net for the Town's fourth goal and possibly deprived Watkins, who was close up, of the chance to add to his quota.

Cullen Had A Purple Patch

AFTER that, there were several escapes and several missed chances until Cullen had a purple patch in which he scored twice in four minutes and more than doubled his previous total in League matches.

Each was a close-range effort scored after he had drifted into the centre from the wing and for a few minutes, it looked very much on the cards as if he would complete a dramatic "hat-trick."

That eluded him, however, as did the goal that would have set up a new record for the Town in Second Division matches.

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 6
Turner (2), Cullen (2), Watkins, (Yuell own goal).

BARNESLEY 0

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

BARNESLEY: Hough; Yuell, Thomas; Smith, McNeill, Archer; Kaye, Bartlett, Chappell, Lumley, Smythe.

Referee: W. Clements, West Bromwich. Attendance: 15,315

Several times they have reached six, but, somehow, they never manage to get beyond that tally.

Too One-Sided To Hold Interest

FOR the spectators, there was much satisfaction about the ease with which victory was attained, but the match was really too one-sided to hold their interest constantly.

The latter part of the second half developed into a battle between the Town attack, backed up by the wing halves, and the beleaguered Barnsley defence.

Morton was particularly unlucky not to score with a couple of rasping shots and Owen, with the necessity for solid defence more or less gone, also went close on occasion to getting his name in the list of goal-scorers.

Back In Title Hunt With A Chance

EFFECT of the victory, combined with the point gained from Sheffield United is to keep the Town vitally interested in the promotion fight.

They are now four points behind Huddersfield, and have a match in hand.

Huddersfield, apart from their win at Luton, have been none too impressive in recent weeks, and they rescued a point at Bury with a goal late in the game.

To remain in the struggle, the Town need every point at stake, and there must be an all-out effort to win at Lincoln on Saturday, especially as Huddersfield and Sheffield United both appear to have comparatively easy home games.

Town Came Through Without Injury

NEWS from the Town camp yesterday was that there are no injuries from Saturday's match, which probably means that an unchanged team will do duty.

The new half-back arrangement is working out very well, and there can be no better solution to the problem facing the Town.

Certainly, Owen showed a tendency at times, especially early in the game, to be found in his old position in the middle, but he was much on top of things and so was Hall.

In fact, only twice during the game did Chappell enter into the picture as a dangerous raider, so

complete a grip did the centre-half take on him.

Defence Had The Easiest Of Tasks

FOR the defence as a whole this was one of the easiest tasks they have ever had, for Barnsley's forwards seldom looked in the least likely to score.

Kaye was dangerous early on, but gradually, through lack of support and the fine positional play of Pemberton, he faded right out.

So well is Pemberton playing that he is making strong claims for a regular place in the side, and it looks as if Aherne, when fit again, may have to await his chance.

Between them, Morton and Jones completely "bottled up" the Barnsley left wing, and, long before the end, the Town defenders were able to almost stroll through the game.

Baynham Was Mainly An Onlooker

FOR much of the time, Baynham's role was merely that of onlooker, as few direct shots came his way in direct contrast to what happened to Hough at the other end.

The Barnsley goalkeeper was liberally peppered with shots, and it required several good saves by him to keep the score down to reasonable proportions.

Once they got over a sticky patch at the start, when the distribution of the light, lively ball was faulty, the Town forwards moved with speed and precision, and there was balance in the line that Barnsley must have envied a lot.

Pye Was Not Among The Goals!

STRANGE that Pye, the leading marksman, did not get amongst the goals on this afternoon when they were cheap, but he cut out the openings for at least two and was content to play mostly a prompting role once the position had been firmly established.

Cullen and Turner formed quite a forceful right-wing partnership, with the former often tying up Thomas with his clever footwork and, although he was inclined to be dilatory at times, he mostly got the ball over accurately.

Four goals between them made this a memorable match for this young right-wing pair.

Goal Average Might Be Important Factor

MITCHELL contrived to give Yuell an uncomfortable afternoon and, although he did not score, he made many openings, while Watkins did a valuable job in linking up in midfield, and his ability to hold the ball was a big asset.

The victory gave a considerable fillip to the goal average, which could be a determining factor if there is a "photo finish" at the top of the Second Division when the final reckoning comes about.

At the moment Huddersfield hold a decided pull in this direction, and the Town need all the goals they can get.

Depleted Team's First Defeat

BEDFORD ATHLETIC, Old Lutonians' "bogey" team, justified that title on Saturday when they became the first side to lower the Old Boys' colours this season. They won 11-6.

However, the Lutonians put up a good fight and did well to keep the score down to such reasonable proportions, for they lost three of their players through injury and the Bedford side, who have been beaten only once this season, were quick to take advantage of their numerical superiority.

Dudley Wood, Oxford "Blue", who was due to turn out for the Old Boys, could not do so as he has torn a ligament and will be unable to play again this season.

Shanks Came Through Satisfactorily

ABOUT the only satisfactory feature of the Town Reserves' worst display of the season in losing 4-1 at Ipswich in the Combination Cup on Saturday was that Shanks came through his first match test without feeling more than minor reaction.

Although it was plain that he has not recovered sufficient confidence to be ready for an immediate return to the League side, he played capably working hard and making good use of the ball.

Otherwise, apart from Streten, Dunne and Cooke, not one Luton player did enough to enhance his reputation.

Only A Shadow Of Team They Were

THE forwards who have been so prolific in their scoring this season never settled down as a line and there was a distinct lack of fight about much of their play.

In fact, the team as a whole looked only a shadow of the one that won the Combination (Division II) championship and it looks as if hopes that they will qualify for the Cup semi-finals are rather slender.

Yet, this was only the second team's third defeat of the season and it was unfortunate that they should pick such formidable opposition as Ipswich against whom to have a collective off-day. Moore obtained the Town's only goal.

Table Tennis RECORDS ARE STILL INTACT

Four Have Yet To Meet With Defeat

The four unbeaten teams in Luton and District League, Saints, Crescent "A", Nalco "A" and St. Anne's maintained their records in the latest batch of fixtures fulfilled

DIVISION I

Crusaders 11, Vauxhall 9
Crusaders "A" 5, Judean Y.C. "A" 15
Rootes 5, Saints 15
St. Mary's 17, Crusaders "A" 3
Electrolux 5, Crusaders 15
Vauxhall 15, Electrolux "A" 5

DIVISION II

Luton Lib. Club 19, Vauxhall "A" 1
Luton O.B. "A" 2, Spennith 18
Luton Boys' Club 15, Nalco 5
Percival 11, Luton Boys' Club 9
Nalco 8, Luton Liberal Club 12
Skefko 5, Percival 15
Crescent Club 10, Skefko 10

DIVISION III

Vauxhall "B" 12, Electrolux "B" 8
Rootes "A" 11, Vauxhall "C" 7
Rootes "A" 16, Dominion 4
Dominion 9, All Saints 11
Hayward-Tyler 6, St. Mary's "A" 14
Electrolux "B" 12, Luton Gas 8
All Saints 5, Rootes "A" 15

DIVISION IV

Percival 10, O. 6, Crescent C. "A" 14
O. Bells R.O.B. 5, Cleansing Dept. 15
Ker's App. 14, Judean Y.C. 6

DIVISION V

Davis 10, Hayward-Tyler "A" 10
Nalco "A" 11, Rootes "A" 3
Percival "A" 9, Luton B.C. "A" 11
Luton B. "A" 9, Nalco "A" 11

DIVISION VI

Crusaders "B" 10, St. Mary's "B" 10
Vauxhall "D" 14, Dominion "A" 6
Telecom 6, Luton Postals 14
Skefko "A" 4, Barton Y.C. 16
Barton Y.C. 8, Alliance 12

DIVISION VII

Rootes "C" 2, St. Anne's 18
St. Anne's 12, O. Bedford O.B. "A" 8
H. Town Y.C. 8, Acc. of Clubs "A" 12
Adamant "A" 12, Skefko "B" 8
Hayward-Tyler "B" 1, Percival "B" 19

DIVISION VIII

Biscot Y.F. 14, Hotspur B.C. 6
Tech. Col. 18, St. Geo. S.C. "A" 2
High Town Y.C. "B" 14, St. Mary's "C" 6
High Town Y.C. 5, Tech. Col. 15
St. Mary's "C" 11, Cres. Club "B" 9
Tech. Col. 16, St. Mary's "C" 4

DIVISION IX

High Town Y.C. "C" 0, Cocoa W. 20
Napier 6, Hotspur B.C. "A" 14
Hotspur B.C. "A" 12, Cleansing Dept. "A" 8
Cocoa Works 14, Co-op Emp. 6

Chiltern's Forecasts

F.A. CUP — Semi-Finals
Bolton v Everton, at Maine-road, Manchester
Tottenham v Blackpool, at Villa Park, Birmingham

DIVISION I

Arsenal v West Brom
Charlton v Middlesbrough
Chelsea v Sheffield Wednesday
Derby v Newcastle
Portsmouth v Burnley
Sunderland v Manchester City
Wolves v Liverpool

DIVISION II

Barnsley v Birmingham
Blackburn v Plymouth
Brentford v West Ham
Doncaster v Leicester
Huddersfield v Southampton
Hull v Leeds
Lincoln v Luton
Nott'gham Forest v Rotherham
Sheffield United v Bury
Swansea v Notts County

DIVISION III (South)

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

DIVISION III (North)

Bradford City v Tranmere
Carlisle v Bradford

Chester v Accrington
Crewe v Mansfield
Darlington v Grimsby
Gateshead v Barrow
Hartlepool v Wrexham
Port Vale v Halifax
Rochdale v York
Scunthorpe v Workington
Southport v Oldham
Stockport v Chesterfield

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

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

DIVISION "B"

Ayr v Albion
Dumbarton v St. Johnstone
Forfar v Morton
Hamilton v Cowdenbeath
Stenhousemuir v Kilmarnock
Stirling v Arbroath

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Charlton, Sunderland, Wolves, Huddersfield, Sheffield United, Swansea, Bristol City, Northampton, Chester, Gateshead.

FOUR AWAY: Newcastle, Birmingham, Bristol Rvs., Grimsby.

THREE DRAWS: Portsmouth v Burnley, Doncaster v Leicester, Watford v Norwich.

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