

CROP OF INJURIES HITS TOWN

BUT ONLY DOUBT IS ABOUT MITCHELL

Aherne Has Had To Stand Down From Eire's Team

By Chiltern

There has been quite a lengthy "sick parade" over the week-end at Kenilworth-road following the matches last Saturday and six players, five of whom were in the team at Lincoln, have required treatment. Yesterday the news was hopeful and trainer Ralph Hann said that the only real doubt was about the fitness of Bert Mitchell, who damaged his ankle again when he was brought down heavily late in the first half.

Among those having trouble yesterday, others being, Cullen, Gordon Turner, Hugh McJarrow, all with injuries, and Jim Pemberton, pulled a muscle in his side at the match at Sincil Bank.

Out on all four is that they have recovered completely in time for the home match with Lincoln.

It is not likely to be the case this weekend as Bud Jones was had to withdraw from Eire's team which was to play in Dublin to-morrow.

Fresh Injury

Keeps Aherne Out

It ends his long run of consecutive appearances in the team and in unfortunate circumstances, too, for the knee injury made him a doubtful starter, and up to the match test finely which on Saturday.

He felt only slight trouble from the injury and would probably have been able to turn out to-morrow for the fact that he collected back on his other knee which had been completely out of the game.

View of the doubt about Aherne and the fact that Arthur Jones is under suspension, it has been a relief to Manager J. Duncan to hear that Roy Jones came through his match with Norwich without trouble.

Hard Grounds Are

Bringing Injuries

Arthur Jones stood in for Mitchell when he had a spell on the bench earlier in the season and would be the most probable player in the circumstances. Yesterday, the manager looked so far ahead and looking later reports before the matter thought the grounds as hard as ever now, jarring of ankles

must be expected, but no club can anticipate the prospect of having as many as four forwards needing treatment for this type of mishap.

Lincoln Could Have Held Substantial Lead

ACCOMPANYING the hard grounds, of course, is the lively ball, which makes control difficult and Lincoln adapted themselves to these conditions much more capably in the first half at Sincil Bank.

Going in to meet the ball consistently, they obtained the bigger share of the play, were the more dangerous and could have built up for themselves a substantial and deserved lead had they been more certain in their finishing.

At least twice, they failed with point-blank range chances and it was an adequate sort of commentary on their shooting that the slender advantage they gained by the interval came from a penalty kick.

Involuntary Gesture Caused A Penalty

AWARD of this caused some comment both during the match and afterwards, for it came when Pemberton made the involuntary gesture of putting up his hands to protect his face when Munro shaped to cross the ball from a few yards away.

Result was that the ball was diverted by his hands over their dead-line. There was no suggestion that a goal was imminent for both Hall and Owen were behind Pemberton in the line of flight and could hardly have failed to clear had the ball not struck the left-back.

Ragged Town Attack In First Half

THE referee was on the spot and immediately pointed to the



BERT MITCHELL—more trouble with his ankle puts him in "doubtful" category for Saturday.

penalty spot. Whittle took the kick and made no mistake though afterwards I learned that Baynham touched the ball with the tips of his fingers.

It was a strangely ragged Town forward line that we saw in the first half. Rarely did they achieve cohesion and it was not until just before half-time that an accurate shot was produced.

Then McJarrow raised our hopes by getting on the mark and forcing Jones to save directly for the first time.

Tables Were Turned In Five Minutes

RIGHT up to half-time just nothing went right in attack. Pye was held by Emery and there was too much holding on to the ball in attempts to beat opponents and too much doubling back which held up the line time and again.

At half-time, the prospects looked none too good, especially as Mitchell was already limping, but there was no depression in the Town dressing room.

The last thing the players said before they went out again was, "We can win this game," and in five minutes they had turned the tables so completely that they had wiped out their arrears and taken the lead.

Turner Surprised The Goalkeeper

ONE minute was all that they required in which to draw level and then, Turner, taking a pass from Cullen, worked himself out to the angle from which he has scored so many goals, and surprised everybody, not least the Lincoln goalkeeper, by getting the ball into the far corner of the net.

Green tried desperately hard to keep it out after it had passed Jones, but could only help it on.

Four minutes later, a movement begun cleverly in midfield led to some interpassing between Pye and Turner that caught the Lincoln defence on one leg.

Town Saw Their Opportunity

IN the end, Turner laid on the ball for Pye to stab it low out of the reach of Jones.

There is no doubt that the first goal unsettled a Lincoln defence that had been most assured previously and the Town, seeing their opportunity, crowded on all sail, and found their best form just when it was most needed.

The way in which the chances were accepted was a lesson to Lincoln, who had shown little goalmouth accuracy and after the tonic of these successes, the Town looked a vastly different proposition.

Seldom Threatened To Save A Point

ALL the forwards found their best form and there might easily have been other goals, for their quickness and accuracy in passing, worried the home defence consistently through the second half.

Lincoln's hopes virtually ended when Pye gave the Town the lead for, though they tried hard, and launched some desperate attacks, they never looked good enough to rescue a point and the Town were

New Professional For Town

AFTER his impressive showing for the "A" team against Windsor and Eton at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, the Town signed as a part-time professional, Raymond Bell, an 18 years-old centre-half from County Durham.

Tall and well-built, Bell was one of four Langley Park Juniors players on trial in this match, the result of which was 2-2. Attendance was 1,100.

much in command of the situation.

On their second half showing alone, the Town deserved to obtain the success that keeps them vitally interested in the promotion fight, though the wins by Sheffield United and Huddersfield meant that they make up no leeway.

McJarrow Had A Good Second Half

ABSENCE of Watkins because of an attack of flu, was a late blow, but McJarrow justified the confidence of the manager in putting him in and had a very good second half.

Whereas previously, he was inclined to try to do too much with the ball, he began to use it quickly with excellent effect and he did a tremendous amount of midfield work, never shirking his responsibility in this direction.

On McJarrow's second-half showing, the Town need not worry overmuch about the inside-

FOR THE RECORDS

LINCOLN CITY 1
Whittle (pen.)
LUTON TOWN 2
Turner, Pye
LINCOLN CITY: Jones (J.); Green, Graham; Dykes, Emery, Owen (R.); Munro, Garvie, Graver, Birch, Whittle.
LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Jones (L.), Pemberton; Morton, Hall, Owen (S.); Cullen, Turner, Pye, McJarrow, Mitchell.
Referee: H. Webb, Leeds.
Attendance: 15,458.

left position, and Turner's approach work showed a considerable improvement, too.

Cullen And Turner Linked Up Well

IN fact, for much of the second half, he and Cullen linked up to make a fine wing partnership and there was intelligent use of the ball by both.

Emery lost the grip he had held earlier on Pye, with the result that the centre-forward came bang into the picture and his prompting was invaluable.

Despite the handicap of a damaged ankle, Mitchell was much more successful after the interval because he cut out his excursions into the middle with the ball and stopped doubling back with it—a move that caused trouble in the first half.

Two Displays Were Difficult To Reconcile

INSTEAD, he concentrated on beating Green on the outside, which he proved he could do most ably and a good deal of threat came from this move.

Really it was difficult to reconcile the vastly differing displays of the forward line in the two halves, and a veil is best drawn over the first half happenings.

Although sometimes worried by the bouncing ball, which they did not always go in to meet, the defence came through splendidly and they had mastered the Lincoln forwards long before the end, worried though they had been at first by the liveliness of the opposition.

Owen Played An Outstanding Part

THERE was an outstanding contribution from Owen although he could not pay so much attention to attack as he would have liked because Garvie continually lay alongside Graver waiting for the flicked passes which might easily have been disastrous for the Town. So, Owen concentrated largely on cutting out the inside-right.

Hall made an excellent job of holding Graver, who has been the magnet for First Division clubs this season and although there were times when Morton was caught in two minds about whether to meet the ball or not, he did well.

There were several occasions when his strong, determined tackling got the team out of a hole.

Baynham Was In Top Form

ABOUT the play of both Jones and Pemberton, there was both coolness and confidence that resulted in neither of Lincoln's wingers having a deal of scope.

Neither was ever flustered and Pemberton kept going pluckily until the end although his side hurt him so much that there were times when he had to hold it with one hand as he ran.

A top-form display by Baynham rounded off the adequate defence and the goalkeeper was most impressive in the way in which he cut out high crosses from either wing.

Another 4-1 Defeat For The Reserves

THE Reserves, who complete their League programme with a home match against Bournemouth to-morrow, have failed signally to strike their best form in the Combination Cup.

For the second week in succession, they were beaten 4-1 on Saturday, this time at Norwich, and there was another disappointing display from them.

Not only were there gaps in defence, but the forwards were unimpressive and only Ray Smith and Roy Davies touched the form of which they are capable.

Little went right for the inside men and Dallas could not hold Johnston, who scored three goals. Only success for the Town came from Moore just before the end.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

Barnley v Bolton
Cardiff v Chelsea
Liverpool v Charlton
Manchester City v Wolves
Middlesbrough v Arsenal
Newcastle v Blackpool
Preston v Aston Villa
Sheffield Wed. v Manchester Utd.
Stoke v Sunderland
Tottenham v Portsmouth
West Brom v Derby

DIVISION II

Birmingham v Lincoln
Bury v Barnsley
Fulham v Brentford
Leeds v Blackburn
Leicester v Swansea
Luton Town v Hull
Notts County v Huddersfield
Plymouth v Nottingham Forest
Rotherham v Everton
Southampton v Sheffield United
West Ham v Doncaster

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington v Scunthorpe
Barrow v Hartlepool
Bradford v Southport
Chesterfield v Bradford City
Grimsby v Gateshead
Halifax v Chester
Mansfield v Port Vale
Oldham v Crewe
Tranmere v Rochdale
Wrexham v Carlisle
York v Darlington

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

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

DIVISION "B"

Albion v Morton
Alloa v Queen's Park
Arbroath v St. Johnstone
Ayr v Forfar
Cowdenbeath v Kilmarnock
Dundee v Dunfermline
Stenhousemuir v Dumbarton
Stirling v Hamilton

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Preston, Tottenham, West Brom, Birmingham, Leeds, Luton, Bristol Rovers, Millwall, Barrow, Oldham.

FOUR AWAY: Arsenal, Sheffield United, Northampton, Scunthorpe.

THREE DRAWS: Manchester City v Wolves, Rotherham v Everton, Mansfield v Port Vale.

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.

WEDNESDAY (TO-MORROW)
March 25th

Combination League

LUTON RESERVES

BOURNEMOUTH

RESERVES

Kick-off 3 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 2/-;
Wing Stand and Enclosure 1/6.
Boys 1/-; Bobbers' Stand 1/3.
Boys 10d. (separate entrance);
Ground (not covered) 1/-, Boys 9d.

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