

BAYNHAM GAVE A BRILLIANT DISPLAY

Had A Big Part In Town's Draw With Stoke City

By Chiltern

STOKE CITY 1 LUTON TOWN 1

Highlight of this match at the Victoria Ground, Stoke, was a brilliant display of goalkeeping by Baynham and it was largely due to his work and the stubborn resistance of the Town defence as a whole that a point was earned.

Capping a grand afternoon's work by Baynham was a save from the penalty spot when a successful shot by Mountford would have given Stoke the lead.

Tearaway Stoke relied much on speed and dash in attack, but although these factors worried the Town defence at times, they had not sufficient guile or craft to make a real impression and their shooting was sub-standard.

The more polished football came from the Town who, if they did not always accomplish what they set out to do, at least showed that they had constructive ideas in attack.

In fact, had the line really worked as a line consistently, Stoke would have been in real trouble.

What stopped the Town taking a grip was a failing at inside forward, where Cummins spoilt much clever footwork by making inaccurate passes and Downie had one of those unhappy afternoons when nothing goes right.

So much out of touch was he that he was switched to outside-right during the second half, with Scott coming across to inside-left.

Despite this, the line carried much potential threat in the first half, and the threat became reality in the 35th minute when Mitchell, who had just returned after a few minutes' absence through injury, suddenly popped up in the inside-right position.

Quickly he pushed the ball through for SCOTT to run on to, and he brushed off a challenge by McCue before beating Robertson with a perfectly placed cross-shot into the far corner of the net.

Earlier there had been a good deal of activity in front of the Town goal with Baynham shining, particularly in the way he pulled down high centres from either wing.

One or two more chances cropped up for the Town after they had scored, but they could not add to their lead, which disappeared four minutes after half-time.

Bowyer beat Shanks in a race for the ball and pushed it through to KING, who had no difficulty in placing it wide of Baynham from fairly close range.

Shortly after this came the penalty incident in which Watkins was judged to have fouled Bowyer, but Mountford shot only slightly wide of Baynham's right hand and the goalkeeper pounced on the ball.

After that it was mainly a case of the Town hanging on grimly to keep on level terms, with Stoke handicapped by over-eagerness among their young forwards.

For a long spell not much was seen of the Town attack, but they made a few all-out raids that seldom looked likely to produce an opening that would enable them to regain their lead.

MORTON'S GRIP ON FINNEY

Apart from Baynham, there was another fine showing by Morton, who again had such a grip on the opposing centre-forward that Finney was left with no room in which to work.

Some initial anxiety for Dunne and Aherne, provided by the speed of Malkin and Oscroft, was soon overcome, and both settled down to give sound displays.

Both Shanks and Watkins were kept at full stretch throughout the

match and while there were periods when they had not got the mastery in the middle of the field, they never flagged and did a terrific amount of work.

Pye made a happy return which would have been happier still had there been an adequate measure of support for him. Always, when he had possession of the ball, he looked a danger and he distributed it well, but little came his way after the interval.

To a certain extent, the same applied to Scott and Mitchell, who did not receive the best of material, but the latter was as dangerous a forward as the Town had, and Scott looked promising in his new position.

STOKE CITY: Robertson; Bourne, McCue; Mountford, Thomson, Martin; Malkin, Bowyer, Finney, King, Oscroft.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Scott, Cummins, Pye, Downie, Mitchell.

Referee: A. Holland, Barnsley.
Attendance: 24,082.