

IS THIS THE START OF A GOOD RUN?

MUCH DEPENDS ON TOWN FORWARDS

Defence Earned Valuable Point Against Stoke

By Chiltern

Although it is nothing to shout about from the rooftops yet, the Town are in their most consistent spell of the season so far, with four points out of the last six and it remains to be seen whether they can go on from there to put together a string of matches without defeat.

The opportunity is facing them, for their next two meetings are at home against teams near the foot of the table in Fulham and Hull City and then follows a visit to Notts County, who just cannot do anything right on their Meadow-lane ground.

Whether or not this run can develop into something out of the ordinary would seem to depend largely on how quickly the forward line, now at something like full strength, can shake down into a smooth-working combination.

More scoring power is still the need and it is an adequate commentary that since the first match of the season, when four goals were scored against Oldham, the Town have not scored more than two in any one match.

In fact, their total output in the last 10 matches is no more than 12.

Full Striking Power Was Not Seen

With Pye and Mitchell back at Stoke last Saturday, the Town attack was very much under the microscope but unfortunately, the full striking power was not seen because the key-men, inside-forwards Cummins and Downie, were not in their best form. Certainly, there was some

clever play from Cummins, particularly in the first half, but what let him down most was his passing, which was very often too strong, and more often than not presented free kicks to the Stoke defenders.

Downie Was Very Much Out Of Touch

THE Stoke pitch was fast and the ball lively which accounted to some extent for this, and similar passes would have been of the utmost value on stickier going.

On the other hand, Downie seemed very much out of touch, could scarcely do anything right, and it was no surprise when he was switched to outside-right during the second half.

Result was that the support Pye and the wingers needed was not forthcoming often, but, even so, there was more pure football from the Town than from Stoke, who were fast and direct, but haphazard in their movements.

Pye's Need Was Better Support

PYE really had the Stoke defence worried in the first half with his quick switching and canny passing, and with better support might easily have caused consternation.

The same applied to Mitchell, who was always dangerous when he had the ball, and had the beating of Bourne fairly consistently.

Pleasing feature for the many Town fans who made the trip was that both these players shaped as if there had not been a lay-off for them, but there was one uneasy moment in the first half when Mitchell went down in a tackle and stayed down.

Mitchell Returned To Make A Goal

FOR a few anxious minutes it looked as if injury-hit Luton were going to be further handicapped, but the worry vanished when Mitchell came back again after three or four minutes and immediately paved the way for the goal that put the Town ahead.

Suddenly he bobbed up in the inside-right position to push the ball through on the inside of McCue for Scott to run on to.

Scott beat his opponent to it, and, despite a late challenge, swept the ball low into the far corner of the net well out of the reach of Robertson.

Had The Chance To Take A Real Grip

AFTER this, the Town had their best chance to really get a grip on this game and the Stoke goal had a couple of narrow escapes.

Once, the ball spun out of Robertson's hands from a Scott centre and, luckily for the home side, bounced wide of Pye and then, when Mitchell pulled the ball back from the dead line, there was no one there to accept a simple chance, for it went behind Scott who had already made his run in.

However, the Town were a goal up at half-time as the result of taking one of their chances, whereas Stoke had missed several opportunities.

Crisis Time Came After Stoke's Goal

HOWEVER, that lead lasted only for four minutes of the second half. Then, Bowyer beat Shanks for possession and left King with a perfect opening from which he shot well wide of Baynham, who had hitherto been absolutely unbeatable.

This was crisis time for the Town and the worst appeared to have happened when Watkins, desperately trying to tackle Bowyer, as he made tracks for goal, was judged to have fouled the inside-right and the referee pointed firmly to the penalty spot despite the protests of the Town players.

Baynham Saved A Penalty Kick

BUT Baynham, who was inspired in this match, rose to the occasion again by stopping Mountford's shot.

This was not a particularly well-

FOR THE RECORDS

STOKE CITY 1
King
LUTON TOWN 1
Scott
STOKE CITY: Robertson; Bourne, McCue; Mountford; Thomson, Martin; Malkin; Bowyer, Finney, King, Osocroft.
LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Scott, Cummins, Pye, Downie, Mitchell.
Referee: A. Holland, Barnsley.
Attendance: 24,082.

directed effort, for the ball was placed only just wide of Baynham's right hand, but the goalkeeper's reaction was immediate and he fell on the ball and, above all, held on to it.

That was the turning point of the game for the Town and although Stoke had much the better of the play, they could not score again against a determined, hard-tackling defence and against Baynham who never seemed to be in the slightest trouble.

Close Call Came In Dying Seconds

THE final fling by the home side came in the dying seconds of the game when Malkin, who had switched to centre-forward, got clean through.

It seemed odds-on him scoring the winner, but again Baynham came to the rescue and the ball went off his body for a corner.

To get back to the speculation about the attack, I would far rather take a chance with the Town's forward line than that of Stoke, for there was evidence of constructive skill from Luton, whereas the home side relied almost exclusively on dash and speed.

Manager Awaits The Softer Going

DAILY DUNCAN thinks that when the softer going comes along, his forward line will really produce the goods and it may be that Downie will reach form nearer to his reputation when the mud comes along.

There must be further outings for Scott at outside right, for he demonstrated that, with the ball in front of him, he can be direct and dangerous and, with more experience, he may well prove to be the foil for Mitchell or the opposite wing by closing in for centres.

He will appreciate the mud, too, for the ball was a bit too lively for him on Saturday.

Baynham Gave A Great Display

BAYNHAM was the shining star of the defence, which was pretty solid all the way through and he was completely confident and assured in everything he did.

He cut out high centres in the style to which we grew so used

last season and the Stoke fans gave him a big reception.

Any centre-forward playing against Morton has a man-sized task on his hands and it was one that young Finney never looked likely to negotiate successfully.

Morton took a grip that he seldom relaxed and the result was an unproductive time for the leader who finished the game at outside-right.

Dunne And Aherne Solved Problems

EARLY on, the speed of Malkin and Osocroft presented something of a problem to Dunne and Aherne, but it was one that they solved quickly.

After a prominent start, Osocroft was well held by Dunne, who turned in another good game, and Aherne was very successful once he began to play close to Malkin.

His kicking with either foot was a big asset, too, and this was a sound full-back partnership.

Task facing Shanks and Watkins was not a particularly enviable one, for the ball was continually coming through and the speed of the home inside men kept them on the go throughout the match.

Wing Halves Were Kept Going Hard

THEY simply had to keep going from beginning to end of this hotly-contested match and they came through creditably when they might very easily have been over-run.

There were times when they had not got a complete grip of the situation, but the result bears witness to the plucky job they did.

This was the Town's second away point of the season and they earned it because they fought for it.

Seven Goals Scored In Reserves' Game

THERE were seven goals scored in the Combination Cup match at Kenilworth-road on Saturday when Leicester City Reserves maintained their unbeaten record in this competition.

The visitors did not play like Section leaders in the first half and did not launch a serious raid until the 25th minute when Crawford scored with a good shot from the edge of the penalty area.

A few minutes later Hogg, a clever winger, ran half the length of the field before centering for Worthington to score Leicester's second goal.

Gallant Fight Was Of No Avail

LUTON put up a gallant fight in the second half and equalised through Turner who scored first from the penalty spot after Milburn had fisted the ball over the bar, and then with a hard first-time drive which gave Dickson no chance.

Littler restored Leicester's lead in a breakaway. Half out the Town on terms a few minutes from the end with a fine header from an Adam corner kick but Littler broke away again and in the closing seconds scored the winner.

There were more thrills than good football, and more to interest the spectators than has been the case in previous reserve games this season.

Thompson Broke A Bone In His Leg

THE manager looks like facing a pretty full-back problem next Saturday, with Dunne and Aherne on International duty with Eire and Alan Thompson out of the game for several weeks.

Thompson, playing centre-forward for the "A" team at Gravesend fractured a bone just above the ankle after 35 minutes at which point the Town were only one goal down.

Bad luck this, for Thompson would undoubtedly have received one of his somewhat rare reserve team outings at Leicester next Saturday.

In the end the Town went down by 5-1, their only goal being from a penalty converted by Wilkinson.

CRICKET IN BRIEF VAUXHALL MOTORS 116

(A. Capstick 36, G. Cosgrove 24). HENDON 110 (J. Barker 39, P. Buckingham 6 for 46, E. Parkin 3 for 34, R. Lloyd 1 for 11).

LUTON TOWN F.C.

OPENING

FLOODLIT MATCH WEDNESDAY, 7th OCTOBER

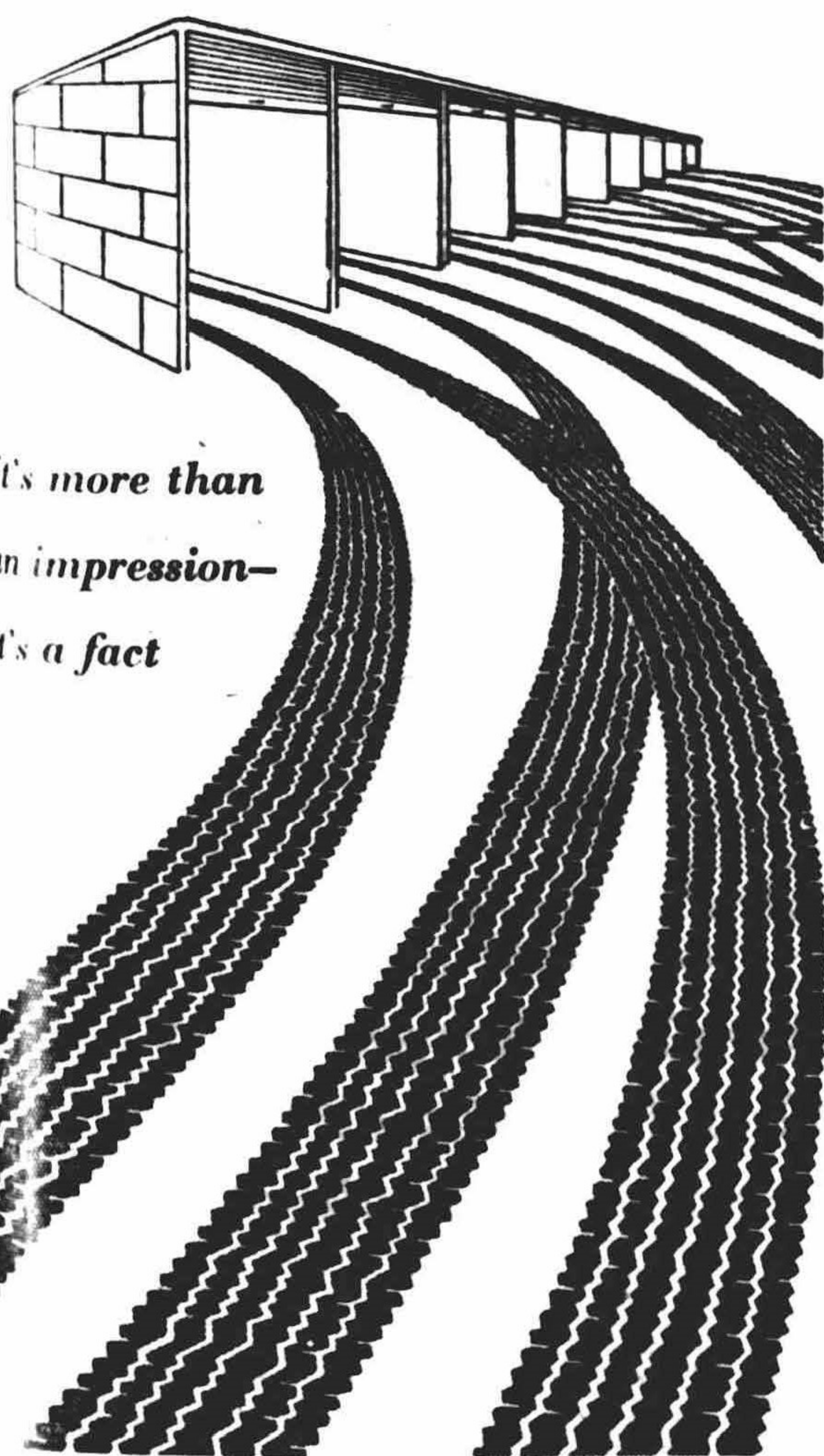
LUTON TOWN

versus

FENER BAHCE (TURKEY)

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 5/- (tickets only); Wing Stands and Enclosure 3/6; Boys 2/-; Bobbers' Stand 2/-; Boys 1/3; Kenilworth Road Terrace 1/9; Boys 1/-.



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an impression—
It's a fact

more motorists than
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DUNLOP

THE TYRES WITH THE GOLD SEAL

They're first in Safety and Long Life

Chiltern's Forecasts

INTERNATIONAL MATCH Ireland v Scotland

DIVISION I

Arsenal v Preston N.E.
Blackpool v Manchester C.
Bolton W. v Tottenham H.
Chelsea v Sunderland
Huddersfield T. v Aston Villa
Liverpool v Sheffield Wed.
Manchester Utd. v Burnley
Newcastle Utd. v Charlton Ath.
Portsmouth v Cardiff C.
Sheffield Utd. v Wolves
West Brom. v Middlesbrough

DIVISION II

Birmingham C. v Leeds Utd.
Blackburn R. v Bury
Brentford v Everton
Bristol R. v Hull C.
Derby Co. v Oldham Ath.
Doncaster R. v Rotherham Utd.
Lincoln C. v Notts Co.
Luton T. v Fulham
Nottm Forest v West Ham
Plymouth A. v Stoke C.
Swansea T. v Leicester C.

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v Torquay Utd.
Coventry C. v Northampton T.
Exeter C. v Southampton
Gillingham v Norwich C.
Ipswich T. v Watford
Leyton O. v Southend Utd.
Millwall v Brighton
Newport Co. v Q.P.R.
Reading v Aldershot
Shrewsbury T. v Colchester Utd.
Swindon T. v Bristol C.
Walsall v Crystal Palace

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v Chesterfield
Barnsley v Workington
Bradford v Scunthorpe Utd.
Carlisle Utd. v Tranmere R.
Chester v Wrexham
Crewe Alex. v Southport
Darlington v Gateshead
Grimsby T. v Bradford C.
Hartlepool Utd. v Halifax T.
Port Vale v York C.
Rochdale v Mansfield T.
Stockport Co. v Barrow

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v Partick T.
Clyde v East Fife
Hamilton v Dundee
Hearts v Stirling A.
Queen of South v Hibernian
Raith R. v Airdrieonians

DIVISION "B"

Albion R. v St. Johnstone
Alloa v Third Lanark
Ayr Utd. v Stenhousemuir
Dundee Utd. v Arbroath
Dunfermline v Motherwell
Forfar Ath. v Cowdenbeath
Morton v Kilmarnock
Queen's Park v Dumbarton

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Blackpool, Huddersfield, West Brom. Bristol R., Derby, Lincoln, Ipswich, Reading, Barnsley, Port Vale.

FOUR AWAY: Wolves, Everton, Norwich, Gateshead

THREE DRAWS: Manchester Utd. v Burnley; Plymouth v Stoke; Chester v Wrexham.

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.

Football Combination Cup TO-MORROW, Wed., Sept. 30th

LUTON RESERVES

COVENTRY RES.

Kick-off 5.15 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.