

TOWN'S ABILITY TO FIGHT BACK

WIPE OUT ARREARS AGAIN AT DERBY

Overcame Shock Of Crop Of Disallowed Goals

By Chiltern

Although the Town's fine run of 10 points from the last 12 has not meant any spectacular rise in the League table for them, it has been the means of narrowing down considerably the gap between themselves and the leaders, which now amounts to six points. Once in the last 10 matches have the Town sampled defeat and if only some of this consistency had been apparent in the first weeks of the season, they would have been figuring brightly in the struggle at the top of the table now.

There is no outstanding team coming out of the ruck so there is an "anything-can-happen" look about the entire season, and, from the Luton point of view, it may depend on whether they can maintain this unbeaten run. It did so at Derby, rather convincingly that the final result would indicate, and there was near complete unanimity possible to get in discussion about a football match that was worthy winners. Indeed, had things really run their way, they might have had the sort of shock result that happened at Ninian Park, on Saturday.

Showing The Ability To Fight Back

Not noticeable and very valuable feature about the Town is that they show fighting spirit on opponents' grounds, and, in some of their last three away games they have had the disappointment of being a goal down fairly early on, but have fought back to win twice and even on the other occasion. The formula was the same at Baseball Ground, for Derby first, and the Town began an uphill fight, made even more difficult by the unusual fact that they had three goals disallowed for offside before half-time.

Disallowed Goals

A Big Blow

TURNER, Pye and Mitchell were the unlucky ones, and it was thought that the goal he had scored was perfectly legitimate. In such circumstances, the Town must have been near despair at the prospect of getting a goal that would be allowed to stand and it is to their credit they tackled their second task in such workmanlike style. The goal came from Wil-

kins after 20 minutes, when he got his shin to a centre from Parry, and the ball went into the corner of the net.

McLaren had jumped in an attempt to head in and missed, and the County were lucky to have a second chance.

Town Had Bit Of Luck On This Occasion

THERE were times before the interval when the Derby forwards, using forthright methods on the greasy surface, worried the Town defence and much of the threat came from their right flank where McLaren was too often allowed to be in an open space and the speed of Parry worried Aherne.

One slice of luck the Town had in this match was when a fine drive by Wilkins smacked against a post, leaving a distinctive black mark.

Had that shot counted as a goal, then the course of the game might have been changed drastically, for the County would then have been two goals up.

Offside Trap Was A Worry To Town

ALTHOUGH they were dangerous quite often, the Town's habit of being caught in the Derby offside trap caused them a lot of worry before the interval and, to some extent, they contributed to their own downfall by keeping the ball too close in midfield.

Quicker development of attacks would have been one answer to this problem and this is what happened in the second half when there was more movement and the work was done without a lot of unnecessary finesse in midfield.

Mitchell Took His Chance Coolly

A COOLLY taken goal by Mitchell began the Town revival three minutes after the restart.

Morton Doubtful For F.A. XI

After going for over two years without an injury serious enough to cause him to miss a match, Bob Morton may have to withdraw from the F.A. XI to meet Oxford University to-morrow because of the ankle he jarred at Derby.

Intensive treatment on Sunday and yesterday has brought about a marked improvement, but Dally Duncan said yesterday, "He could not play as the ankle is this morning".

The Football Association have been notified that there is some doubt about his appearance and the final decision will be made this morning.

If he does not play in this match, then there must be a serious doubt about him being in the team for the floodlit match against the Vienna team, Admira, at Kenilworth-road on Thursday.

However, there is better news of Gordon Turner, whose thigh injury was said to have made a 100 per cent. improvement over the week-end, and he is regarded as a likely starter for Thursday now.

He closed in to meet a centre made by Pye from near the corner flag on the right wing and chested the ball down before placing it well out of Paul's reach into the far corner of the net.

Shortly afterwards came the fourth disallowed goal, again for offside, with Turner the victim for the second time in the match.

Twice injuries caused anxiety; first Shanks needed attention and had a spell at outside-right which lasted only a matter of minutes and then Turner received a knock on the thigh which led to his permanent removal to the wing.

Well On Top In The Second Half

POSSIBLE chances were missed by Turner and Pye, and then, with 13 minutes left, Mitchell did the trick again when he gained possession some distance from goal and went racing through before leaving Paul helpless with a terrific drive.

For much of the second half, the Town dominated the proceedings, with the forwards playing forceful, fast football that revealed gaps in the Derby defensive set-up.

A little more steadiness would have enabled them to build up their lead but the fact remains that they had the nail in the net six times during the match and that is comforting reading for the fans who have watched some punch-less displays at Kenilworth-road.

Turner Always On The Lookout For Goals

THE introduction of Turner brought added liveliness and,



Before the amateur international match between England and France at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, the captains — Barrera, of France, and Adams, of England — exchanged pom-poms. The 10,952 spectators saw England beat France 4-2, but not so easily as the score suggests. The French played attractive football and were unlucky to be beaten by two goals. R4291J

although he did not score a goal that counted, he was always on the look out for the half-chance.

With Davies, he formed the more progressive wing before half-time, and it was unfortunate that injury cut down his effectiveness.

Davies was one of the successes of the attack, for he was always go-ahead, always fighting for possession and he is filling the outside-right position more adequately than has been the case for some time.

Pye Always Troubled Derby's Defence

WHEN Pye had possession of the ball, the Derby defence could always look out for trouble and on a surface that suited him, he produced some brilliant footwork and accurate distribution.

From the wings, he made some fine centres and the only complaint there could be about him was that his finishing was not up to the same standard as his approach work.

Be that as it may, the fact remained that the line revolved around him and he was always probing at weaknesses in the home defence.

Mitchell Hit The Jack-Pot

NOT a great deal came from the left wing before the interval, with Cummins holding the ball too long and Mitchell mostly held.

However, afterwards Cummins took less time to make his moves and turned in a hard-working, effective display, while Mitchell

FOR THE RECORDS

DERBY COUNTY 1
Wilkins
LUTON TOWN 2
Mitchell (2)
DERBY COUNTY: Paul; Patrick, Savin; Walker, Oliver, Mays; Parry, McLaren, Wilkins, Dunn, Law.
LUTON TOWN: Stretton; Dunne, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Davies, Turner, Pye, Cummins, Mitchell.

became the match-winner with two brilliantly-taken goals.

That the Town defence took such a grip on the Derby attack in the second half was due largely to Watkins keeping a closer watch on the danger man, McLaren, and shutting him out of the game.

McLaren Had Done Some "Poaching"

FOR much of the first half, McLaren, lying well upfield in the role of what in football parlance is known as a "poacher," had had too much scope because Watkins had played his normal game, going through with the ball and linking up with the men in front of him.

The change eased the task of Aherne, for Parry saw less of the ball and the danger there had been from this quarter earlier was largely eliminated.

Taking the game through, the right flank was a little stronger than the left, for Shanks had one of his best games, and Dunne, once through the opening stages, had a tight grip on Law.

Morton On Top Despite Ankle Injury

THE outside-left relied to a large extent on his speed and nearly always tried to beat Dunne on the outside. This suited the full-back down to the ground, for his own speed enabled him to make a successful tackle time and again.

Despite an ankle injury in the first half, Morton was much on top of his job and all the bustle and strength of Wilkins seldom took him clear of the centre-half, who was deadly in the tackle and sure in his clearances.

Several good saves came from Stretton, whose handling of the greasy ball throughout was sound and he was seldom in any sort of trouble.

Not Luton's Last Representative Game

THAT Saturday would not be the last time that Luton will stage a representative match was the broad hint the Town received from F.A. officials after the Amateur International between England and France.

Both sets of officials were well satisfied with the arrangements made, and the French party was much impressed with the accommodation at Kenilworth-road and also the hospitality they received from the club.

The attendance of just under 11,000 was something else that gave satisfaction, and the Town fans certainly showed that they will support this type of football.

CHILTERN'S

F.A. CUP FIRST ROUND

Aldershot v Wellington T
Barnet v York City
Bath City v Walsley
Blyth Spartans v Accrington S
Brighton v Coventry City
Cambridge U v Newport County
Colchester U v Millwall
Crewe Alexandra v Bradford City
Darlington v Port Vale
Exeter City v Hereford U
Finchley v Southend U
Gainsborough T v Chesterfield
Gateshead v Tranmere Rovers
Great Yarmouth v Crystal Palace
Grimsby T v Rochdale
Halifax T v Rhyl Ath
Hartlepool U v Mansfield T
Harwich and Parkeston v Hendon U
Hastings U v Guildford City
Hitchin T v Peterborough
Horden Colliery v Wrexham
Ipswich T v Reading
Leyton Orient v Kettering T
Northampton T v Llanelly
Nuneaton B v Watford
Q.P.R. v Shrewsbury T
Scunthorpe U v Boston U
Selby T v Bradford
Southampton v Bournemouth
Southport v Carlisle U
Spennymoor v Barrow
Stockport County v Chester
Swindon T v Newport (I.O.W.)
Torquay U v Bristol City
Walthamstow-avenue v Gillingham
Weymouth v Bedford T
Wigan Ath v Scarborough
Wilton A v Nelson
Workington v Ferryhill
Yeovil v Norwich City

DIVISION I

Bolton Wanderers v Chelsea
Burnley v Aston Villa
Charlton Ath v Wolves
Liverpool v Arsenal
Manchester U v Blackpool
Middlesbrough v Manchester City
Newcastle U v Portsmouth

FORECASTS

Preston N.E. v Sheffield U
Sheffield Wednesday v Sunderland
Tottenham Hotspur v Huddersfield
West Bromwich v Cardiff City

DIVISION II

Birmingham City v Bury
Fulham v Hull City
Leeds U v Oldham Ath
Leicester City v Lincoln City
Luton T v Blackburn Rovers
Nottingham Forest v Doncaster R
Plymouth Argyle v Derby County
Rotherham U v Bristol Rovers
Stoke City v Notts County
Swansea T v Brentford
West Ham v Everton

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Celtic v Airdrieonians
Dundee v Stirling Albion
Falkirk v Aberdeen
Hamilton v Hearts
Hibernian v East Fife
Partick T v St Mirren
Queen of the South v Clyde
Raith Rovers v Rangers

DIVISION "B"

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

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Barnsley, Gateshead, Southampton, Stockport, Bolton, Preston, West Bromwich, Birmingham, Leeds, Leicester.

FOUR AWAY.—Port Vale, Norwich, Arsenal, Everton.

THREE DRAWS.—Colchester v Millwall; Manchester U v Blackpool; Tottenham v Huddersfield.

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