TOWN'S UPWARD DRIVE CONTINUES

SIMILAR POSITION TO LAST SEASON NOW

Visit To Doncaster Is Of Vital Importance

By Chiltern

those who are now beginning to wonder whether the Town can get into the promotion race this season will be interested in a comparison between their position to-day and the one they were in exactly 12 months ago.

strangely enough, the two are almost identical, for last year, at this stage, the Town were seventh with 21 points from 18 matches. Now they stand eighth with 21 points from 19 games. The teams who went up eventually, Sheffield United and Huddersfield, then had 27 and 25 points respectively.

rortunately, they will face this weeks. whitheir full-strength resources salable, for, apart from the concussion that Mitchell arved in scoring the winning goal, the players came through without a tough match

Muchell's spectacular effort cerprovided a dramatic finish. there were only two minutes when he headed the goal.

Ball Did Not Run kindly For Them

AGAIN, he had shown intellithe middle, and he was on the spot to head through Cumcleverly-placed free kick, the inside-left had been buttht down.

that the Town should not have han in the position of having in all on such a belated decider be mother story, but it is fair to that they scarcely had the of the ball in this match. the first half an hour they fixed some of their most impreslootball of the season, and was a time when the Blackdefence looked likely to be

Rovers' Defence Made A Shaky Start

THRE was distinct shakiness again. tom them for a long time, livy must have been a bit which the ball frequently back to him from his own iders on occasions.

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Ginzer Beer, Cydapple and

A the moment the Town are ing with a beautiful shot 10 ond place, Doncaster Rovers, pect seemed that the Town would football that even approached that in only goes to stress the vital at last get the crop of goals they shown by the Town in the first trance of their visit to the have been threatening, but some-B. Yue ground next Saturday. how not achieving, in recent

Could they have scored again quickly, it is reasonable to assume that the Rovers' defence would have been blasted wide open.

Elvy Saved Them Several Times

BUT they hung on doggedly, improving and gaining in confidence as the Town's heavy pressure failed to bring results. For this they owed quite a lot

to Elvy for some very good saves, notably one from Turner, who had broken through brilliantly and placed his shot well and another from Pye when he sought to find the unmarked Mitchell from the right wing.

Two or three chances slipped by, too, and in view of the Town's persistent pressure, it was strange that their half-time lead was limited to a single goal.

Turner Thought He Had Scored

AFTERWARDS. Turner told me that he thought he had scored in the first half when Elvy half saved a shot from him and the ball bounced behind the goalkeeper

The inside right claimed that it fell over the line by a matter of a foot or so and then spun out

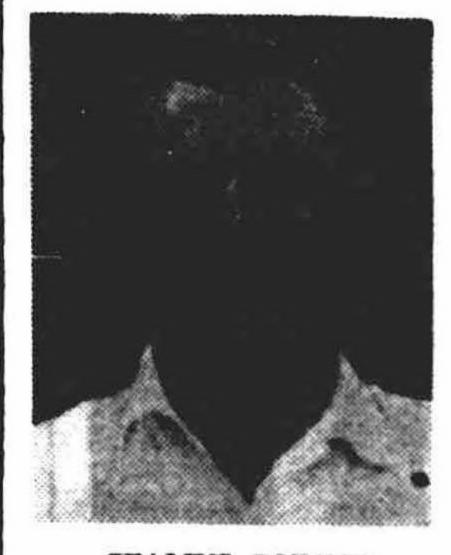
That more goals did not come is causing concern among some of incerted at the suddenness the fans, but I think that the Town can fairly claim that luck was not with them in this match. There was that great shot by

Watkins opened the scor- Turner that struck the foot of the

the Christmas

completes

"CORONA"



SEAMUS DUNNE Town's right-back, gave a polished display against

post early in the second half and one from Pye that missed the far post by inches.

Briggs's Goal Came As A Real Shock

ESPITE the famous names in their forward line, Black-

Here was the quick movement we have been crying out for and so intricate was some of it that the Rovers defenders sometimes wore quite a bewildered look. Nevertheless, it came as a

distinct shock and a nasty jolt when the Rovers broke away and scored after 55 minutes. A quick pass down the middle

by McLean found Briggs, who brushed past Owen and placed the ball wide of Streten.

Game Swung Other Way For A Time

PRUBABLY the bounce of the oall beat the centre-halt, and Stretca, who was almost certainly expecting it to be pushed back to nim, could not make the ground necessary to smother the shot.

For some minutes after this, the game, which had always been going in the Town's favour previously, suddenly swung the other way, and there was an uncomfortable feeling that another home point was going to be

Almost immediately afterwards Briggs twice forced his way through a now unsettled defence and went close to putting the Rovers into the lead.

Unlucky To Have A Goal Disallowed

CRADUALLY, the lown reasserted themselves, though without moving with their firsthalf smoothness, mostly due to the fact that they were holding the ball a trifle too long.

Yet they sceemed distinctly unfortunate when a goal was disallowed after Cummins had swept into the net a cross by Mitchell, against whom the offside decision was made.

Then came the fighting finish, with Mitchell taken off the field with the cheers ringing in his ears.

Despite the fact that the forwards did not score as many goals as mest people thought they should, they moved with a good deal more thrust than has been the case in several home games this season.

Turner's Luck With His Shooting Was Out

MINE times out of ten, Turne. would have finished with a couple of goals to his credit for his efforts in this match, and not only has the brought more punch to the front line, but his general play is showing a marked improvement, too.

With Davies, now playing better and more consistently than at any time during his stay with the Town, he is forming a dangerous wing, and Davies did not allow the reputation of Eckersley to worry him. Result was that he had another successful game, and quite a lot of centres came from

Mitchell was a little more spasmodic, but he is the man who is getting the goals, and his value to the line is inestimable.

Pye Was A Worry To Blackburn

OBVIOUSLY, Blackburn approached this match with the danger from Pye in the forefront of their minds, and the most panic was produced when he had possession of the ball.

He did much that was clever and constructive, but there were times after the interval when he held the ball and tried to beat an opponent of two when a quick pass would have saved him all

the trouble. The same applied to Cummins, Bradford v. Wrexham

often trying to do that fraction too much with the ball, but he was a terrific worker, who took quite a number of knocks in the robust Blackburn tackling.

However, both began a number of dangerous attacks.

Not Much Need For Anxiety

THE first half success pointed the way to the value of a quickly-made pass, and it was then that the Town front line as a whole really clicked in streamlined fashion.

A continuance of this sort of approach work must bring goals, and there should not be a lot to worry about on this account.

Nor does there seem much need for anxiety about the defence, brought back to full strength by the return of Owen.

Apart from the ten minutes after Briggs had scored, when he looked distinctly uneasy, Owen had a comfortable sort of match on his return to the team, and was rarely in any sort of trouble.

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 2

BLACKBURN ROVERS. 1

LUTON TOWN: Streten;

Dunne, Aherne; Morton,

Owen, Watkins; Davies,

Turner, Pye, Cummins,

Elvy; Suart, Eckeroley;

Smith, Kelly, Bell; McLean,

Attendance: 16,269.

BLACKBURN ROVERS:

Referee: G. Pankhurst,

Strong Foundation In

The Middle Line

FROM the wing halves, there

and resource, and the forwards

will profit from the return of

since he joined the club than he

is doing now, and the team has a

strong foundation in the middle

makes one wonder why he has

been passed over by the Eire

selectors, for he had a grip on

the clusive Langton throughout.

said that he had a painful ankle

injury early on which probably

Himself

A HERNE, who had been in

place earlier in the week, re-estab-

lished himself with a sold display

and Streten, far less fully em-

ployed than was Elvy, yet gave a

further indication that he s in

Altogether, it was a display to

encourage the hopeful people who

are beginning to talk about a pro-

motion bid, with just that slight

query about the finishing power

tip-top form at the moment,

remaining.

some danger of losing hs

cut down his effectiveness.

For the winger, it should be

Behind them, Dunne's fine form

Watkins has never played better

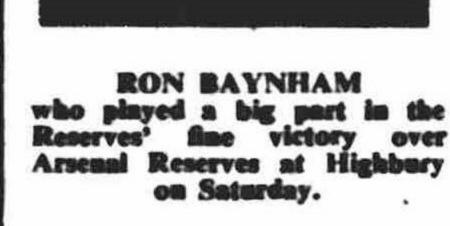
Morton to right-half.

was strength in the tackle

Watkins, Mitchell

Mitchell.

Warwick.



hope that the Town can peg bac the Rovers, beaten only once in their last six matches

Great Win By The Town Reserves

A BRILLIANT first half-hou at Highbury where the Town stron Reserves pierced the Aisenal detence three t me through Taylor, Moore and Mo Jarrow, enabled them to pull of a great 3-2 win.

arue to the Arsenal tradition there was a determined fight back by them and they got to with one goal of the Town by half time through Walsh and Gor na

terrific second half battle in which A : senal threw in everything i their attempt to save the game. Terrific pressure was exerted of

So, the stage was set for

the Town's defence and they die extremely well to prevent furthe

Hall And Baynham Were The Heroes

THEIR heroes were Hall, who broke up attack after attack and Baynham, constantly is action during the second half, and who made a number of brillian saves,

From the remainder of th defence there was sound backing for this pair, and the second hal was mostly a case of the Town hanging on to their narrow lead

The forwards, ably led by Scott, were at their best earlier and Scott was desperately unluck not to have made it 4-0 with shot that beat Swindin and the missed the post by inches.

Team Back On Top Of The League Aherne Re-established

IN a match at Dartford in which defences were predominan from start to finish, the Town "A" snatched the winning goa through Allen five minutes from the end.

This success puts them back a the top of the Metropolitan League, level on points with Headington and Guildford over whom they have matches in hand

An unfortunate incident led to the sending off of Bennett and Dartford player, German, Nearly all the football came

from the Town, whose forwards however, did not really settle down against the hard, quick Now for Doneaster and the tackling of the home defence.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I Arsenal v. Newcastle Utd.

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

DIVISION II

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

DIVISION IN (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION HI (NORTH)

Barnsley v. Mansfield T.

Chester v. Grimsby T. Crewe Alex v. Stockport Co. Darlington v. Barrow Gateshead v. Chesterfield Hartlepools Utd. v. Bradford C. Port Vale v. Rochdale Scunthorpe Utd. v. Halifax T. Southport v. Accrington S. Workington v Trammere R York C. v. Cartisle Utd.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION " A "

Celtie v. Partick T. Dundee v. Hibernian East Fife v. Airdriconians Hamilton v. Raith R. Hearts v. Aberdeen Queen of South v. Falkirk Rangers v. Clyde Stirling A. v. St. Mirren

DIVISION "B" Albion R. v. Dunfermline Ayr Utd. v. Dundee Utd. Cowdenbeath v. Motherwell Forfar Ath v. Queen's Park Morton v. Alloa St. Johnstone v. Kilmarnock

Stenhousemuir v. Dumbarton Third Lanark v. Arbroath SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Arsenal Black Wolves, Blackburn Everton, Bournemouth North ampton, Reading, Barnsley, Por Vale.

FOUR AWAY.—West Brom Birminghan Forest, Nottm. Tranmere.

THREE DRAWS.—Portsmout v. Manchester Utd.; Bristol R. Leicester C.; Crewe v. Stockpor

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