

New Leader May Make Debut

EXPERIMENTS IN ATTACK FOR TOWN'S "FRIENDLY"

Into the comparative calm of a friendly match against Continental opposition go the Town on Saturday when their attentions might so easily have been turned to the infinitely more serious business of another Cup-tie.

For this meeting with the Yugoslavia champions, Hajduk, at Kenilworth-road, Manager Dally Duncan has decided to take the opportunity to make some experiments in attack and it may mark the first appearance of their capture from South Africa, Peter McEwan, at centre-forward.

Although the Town had not received confirmation yesterday, they are expecting him to arrive at London Airport later today and, if he is fit and well after his long journey, he will be given the early chance to prove that he can hold his own in top-class company.

"We shall have to be guided by the player himself, but this is an opportunity that we do not want to miss," the manager told me yesterday.

If McEwan, who is only 21, should prove to be the success that Billy Arison thinks he can be in English football, then he can solve a problem that has been a source of some anxiety since the injury to Jesse Pye.

Moore Retained At Outside-Right

TAKING a line from his second half display in the position at Wolverhampton, the manager is to retain Bernard Moore at outside-right where he has not yet had an extended trial, though he shaped extremely well there in the opening stages of the home match with Leicester City until injury cut down his effectiveness.

There will be a rest for Bert Mitchell and the outside left berth will be filled by Roy Davies, who has played there with success on previous occasions.

Mitchell has not been at his best in recent matches and the ay-off might help him to regain his form.

Downie's First Chance Since November

RESTED, too, is Gordon Turner of whom the manager says, "He has been taking knocks in nearly every match recently and is bruised right down his shin to his ankle."

This brings in Johnny Downie for a senior team outing for the first time since he was omitted after the home match with Brentford on November 7.

In recent weeks, Downie has been playing extremely well for the Reserve, and has been showing a liking for having a crack at goal which should be valuable in the League side which has been lacking something in his direction and the lack of thrust of the forwards has been a matter of some concern.

Deputy For Sid Owen Is Bob Morton

THIS match presents Downie with the chance to reinstate himself in the team and that would doubtless end all the talk about him wanting a move to another club.

Only change that is being made in defence is caused by the injury to Sid Owen and, with Bob Morton moving to centre-half, this paves the way to an outing for Wally Shanks.

He has not been in any of the teams for a month because he has been on what became, because of the Cup-tie replays, permanent twelfth man duty to the first team.

Morton, of course, has played brilliantly at centre-half during previous enforced absences of Owen.

Hopes That Owen Will Play At Leicester

NEWS of Owen is that the muscle trouble that caused him to switch to centre-forward on Monday is not too serious and he should be able to return for the vital promotion tussle at Leicester on Saturday week.

The muscle that is affected is the "running" muscle at the back of the thigh and he is having intensive treatment for the trouble.

Bernard Stretton finished Monday's match limping as a result of a knock on the side of the thigh when Blackpool's second goal came but this is yielding to treatment and he is expected to play against Hajduk.

Further Rest Is Necessary For Jones

LESLIE Jones, too, is making progress, but there will have to be a further period of rest for him before he is able to resume.

Should McEwan not arrive on schedule, or should it be decided not to play him, it is likely that the leadership will go to Joe Scott, who held it until he was injured at West Ham on Christmas Day. Probable team:

Stretton; Dunne, Ahern; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Moore, Downie, McEwan, Cummins, Davies.

Hajduk's previous matches on this tour resulted in a 1-1 draw against Bristol City and they went down by the only goal at Watford on Monday. Last night they were playing by floodlight at Coventry.

Hajduk Thrilled The Bristol Crowd

AT Bristol, they drew an attendance of 17,981 despite the fact that there had been 24 hours' rain before the match, and it was described as a real spectacle, with all the good football expected from an exhibition combined with the thrills of a cup-tie.

Even though the heavy conditions were not in their favour, Hajduk played some brilliant football in the true Continental tradition.

In their party they have six internationals, including Vukas, the centre-forward, who is their star artist and who was in the Rest of the World team that played England at Wembley.

Have Played More Than 150 Games

SO, too, was the goalkeeper, Beara, and their other 'caps' are Maticic, their inside-right who has played for Yugo-

GOOD WIN FOR POYNTERS ROAD

Poynters-road had a good win in the 14-18 section of the Chiltern Youth League, beating Biscot Mill B.C. 8-2.

POYNTERS-ROAD 8 (C) Sonneston 2, V. Tollevay 2, S. Williams, C. Thompson, J. Hawkins, (Clarke), BISCO MILL B.C. 2 (D. Atwell, A. Mc Master).

VAUXHALL JUNIORS 2 (C) Gray 2, LIMBURY O.B.'s 3 (K. Holway, J. Dawson, J. Clegg).

LEIGHTON HOTSPUR 0, LANGLEY RANGERS 4 (A. Trotter 2, P. Os-hallidion, J. Buncle).

HOUGHTON JUNIORS 6, FARLEY HILL 0.

14/16

LUTON HOTSPUR 4 (A. Davies, B. Wills, T. Baxter, B. Crawley, BISCO MILL B.C. 3 (P. Fawcett, 1 Bill, 1 Pedler).

FLITWICK BROTHERHOOD 5 (M. Payne, J. M. Cherry, L. Stringer), POYNTERS-ROAD 2 (D. Hawes, D. Blower).

LUTON BOYS' CLUB 4 (M. Smith, 2. Bunsford, J. Johnson, G. BED-FORD, ROAD 0.4 (B. Whitty, R. Price, D. Lewis, 1 Holmes).

being hit by Vauxhall officials by the selection of one of their younger stars, Tony Gregory, to play at inside-left for England's youth team against Scotland at Middlesbrough on February 6.

Gregory, a product of Luton Schools football, played for Langley Rangers and the Town's youth XI in local youth football before moving on to Vauxhall this season and he has been one of the stars in the strong Bedfordshire team.

Happy Kent's Hope To Maintain Run

WITH four consecutive wins behind them, Kent's Athletic will face up confidently to the task of visiting Binglewade Town in the South Midlands League match on Saturday.

Reg Noble is fit again and returns to left-back with Alan Stockbridge moving to centre-half to replace Harry Naylor, who is ill.

Team: R. Tottenham; W. Day, R. Noble, W. Maynard, A. Stockbridge, J. Hall; K. Peel, P. Berry, R. Peel, R. Redling, A. Dickens.

Beaten last week, the Reserves entertained Britannia Works and are making changes in attack with the return of Joe Summers and Bob Peel is expected.

Opponents Always Difficult To Beat

MEETING opponents who are always difficult to beat, whether they are playing at home or away, Old Lutonians R.F.C. travel to Cambridge on Saturday to meet Old Cantabrigians.

Except that Robinson returns to take over the scrum-half position, the Old Boys are retaining the victory last week.

Team: York: Smith, Thorpe, Fennome, Thurlow, Edmonds, Robinson; Adkins, Knapp, Shepherd, Heasue, Young, Cato, Kelly, Packwood.

Two Changes Being Made By Luton

RETURN of Hawkes and Marshall after several outings in the "A" XV represent the only changes being made by Luton for the visit of Bedford Wanderers to Stockwood.

Team: Fox: Hawkes, J. Jones, Holloway, Cope, Temple, Henman; Marshall, Powell, Hammond, Boswell, Skinner, May, Beechener, Swain.

Visiting Bletchley, the "A" team will have several alterations and will be represented by:

Cannon; Ruddick, Burton, Jenkins, Burgess; Evans, Sault, Lee, Hewitt, Hogg, Thomas, A. Jones, Rally, Peel, Halliday.

WITHDRAWALS CAUSE A DRASTIC ALTERATION

Limbury O.B. Decide That They Cannot Complete Fixtures

The situation in the Premier Division of Luton and South Beds League has changed drastically, following on the withdrawals of two of the clubs.

Hitchin-road O.B. were fined £10 last week after their decision not to carry on and, on Monday, Limbury O.B. decided that they could not complete their fixtures and announced their immediate withdrawal, which will be considered at the meeting of the League Executive Committee to-night.

With two records to be expunged, the race for the title takes on a different complexion, for Barton Rovers, who were beaten by Hitchin-road O.B. earlier in the season, benefit from it, and now emerge as the team best placed for a challenge to the leaders, Napier Sports.

Ironically, Napier had a 7-0 victory over Limbury on Saturday—an effort that will now prove to have been all in vain.

Barton's windfall, combined with Shillington's defeat by the only goal at Caddington, has put them in second place, five points behind the leaders, but with two matches in hand.

The withdrawals have actually cost Napier six points, while Shillington go back from the 21 points mark to 14.

At the other end of the table, too, repercussions have been felt, for Tottenham and Luton Social are now bracketed at the bottom, though the former have matches in hand.

Surprise in Division I was the heavy defeat of Leagrave B.L. by their local rivals, Leagrave Athletic, and this has served to destroy largely the title ambitions they must have cherished.

Now, the fight here seems certain to be between Woburn Athletic, still unbeaten, and Luton Town "B," who are making up leeway rapidly and have dropped only three points out of 24.

The see-saw in Division II continues, with Robin Hoods (taking over the leadership again, as Lilley Rangers had no match, but they have Davis Athletic on the same mark with them, and Hockliffe, who have four matches in hand, only a point behind.

Unbeaten Hockliffe must be firm favourites here, and they showed their power by the convincing fashion in which they disposed of Luton Social Res., who were in the running for a long time.

More tall scoring by Sandon Park, they reached a dozen against Boys' Brigade O.B. and had seven successful marksmen—kept them at the top of Division III, where their lead over Caddington "B" amounts to one point.

In gaining a comparatively easy victory, Caddington kept themselves vitally interested in the position here.

In Division IV, Shaw and Kilburn now enjoy a lead of two points over Percival Apprentices, but can be caught if Cockermoe can win their two outstanding matches. The leaders reached double figures against a depleted Laporte Res.

Feature in this Division was a late rally by Barton Woodworking who wiped out arrears of four goals to save a point, and another by Hexton, who turned a two goals deficit into a 3-2 win late in the game.

PREMIER DIVISION
PIONEER CORINTHIANS 1 (Tyler), STOPSLEY 7 (Pugh 2, Bowles 2, Gustard 2, Owens).

NAPIER SPORTS 7 (Weston 3, Welham 2, Cumberley, Shobholt, LIMBURY O.B. 0).

GLENDAL 1 (James), BARTON ROVERS 2 (Horder 2), TOTTERHAMOE 1 (Fleetnell), LUTON SOCIAL 1 (Jackson), CADDINGTON 1 (Pain), SHILLINGTON ATH 0.

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.

SATURDAY, 30th JANUARY

LUTON TOWN

versus

HAJDUK

(Jugoslav National Champions)

Kick-off 3 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 5/-; Wing Stand and Enclosure 3/6; Boys 2/-; Bobbers' Stand 2/6; Boys 1/3 (separate entrance); Ground (not covered) 1/9, Boys 1/6.

South Saxons 1, Old Dunstable 0; Old Dunstable II 5, I.C.I. We've 3; Old Dunstable III 11, Royal Dental College 0.



JOHNNY DOWNIE, who will play against Hajduk on Saturday. His last appearance in the first team was on November 7.

RESERVES SHOT-SHY

Fulham Saved A Point Late On

Fulham Reserves 1, Luton Town Reserves 1.

Weakness in front of goal cost the Town Reserves a point at Fulham.

Had they been prepared to shoot more often they would probably have won for they played clever football and, in the first half particularly, had the home defence in a tangle.

When they did get in a shot they found Nicholls, the young Fulham goalkeeper, in brilliant form, and he made some excellent saves.

Downie was unlucky, for he made several fine efforts which deserved to bring goals, but Nicholls was almost unbeatable.

Luton's only goal was scored by LOWE, the Fulham left-back, who put through his goal and it came in the 33rd minute.

Fulham improved after the interval, and Baynham saved well from Wilkins and Newcombe. Apart from those two efforts, however, the home forwards were given little scope by the Town defence.

With only five minutes left for play it looked odds-on to a Luton victory, but then WILKINS beat Baynham from 15 yards to give the London team a point they scarcely deserved.

Best Luton forward was Downie. Scott had a quiet sort of game, while Groves, making his first appearance since his demobilisation from the Army, was inclined to keep the ball too close.

FULHAM RES.: Nicholls; Healey, Lowe (R.); Smith, Gibson, Stapleton, Downie, Wilkins, Cronin, Chamberlain, Newcombe.

LUTON TOWN RES.: Baynham; Dunne, Pemberton, A. McGuffie, Hall, Smith (R.); Cullen, Groves, Scott, Downie, Adam.

DIVISION I
R.A.F.A. 1, ELECTROLUX 5 (Draycott 2, Gills, Hinton, Chambers), SHILLINGTON 'A' 2 (Hare, Dilley).

WEST PARK 2 (Westley 2, WOBURN ATH 4 (Dudley 2, Healy, Turner), BELLS PARK 1 (Skinner 1), Fensome 1, Smylie 2, Fensome 2, Pickering).

STOPSLEY 1 (Horder 1), LUTON TOWN 'B' 5 (Wheelhouse 4, Nelson), LAPORTE 0.

LEAGRAVE B.L. 1 (Curth), LEAGRAVE ATH 5 (Tanley 3, Ball, Humphreys).

DIVISION II
LUTON SOCIAL RESERVES 0, HOCKLIFFE 9 (Scott 5, Millburn, Wall, Tucker, Seabrook).

PERCIVAL ATH 1, LUTON UNITED 2 (Auburn 1, Cox 2, Walker).

WARDEN HILL ATH 1 (Thirkettle), DAVIS ATH 4 (Upton, Bradler, Francis, Stimpson).

ROBIN HOODS 3 (Mead, Ward, Bunyan), OLD LUTONIANS 2 (Abbott, Northcott).

SKEFRO ATH 1, EATON BRAY RESERVES 6 (Kilby 3, Line 2, Burgess).

DIVISION III
BARTON ROVERS RESERVES 3 (Dunford, Burgoine, West), HAYWARD-TYLER 3.

BIDWELL 4 (S. Bird 2, B. Bird, Pedlar), SUNDON O.B. 0.

ALLIANCE FOUNDRY 1 (Lefebvre), LEAGRAVE ATH RESERVES 0, LEAGRAVE B.L. RESERVES 2 (E. Smith, Rotti), CADDINGTON 'B' 5 (Ginger, R. Giger, Morgan).

LUTON BREWERY 1, WALSOT ATH 5 (Ray 4, McGowry).

BOYS' BRIGADE O.B. 1 (Daniels), SUNDON PARK 12 (McSavane 3, Dixon 3, S. Lench 2, Meehan, Cairney, Knappett, W. Lench).

DIVISION IV
LUTON O.B. RESERVES 7 (Anderson 3, Field 3, Fountain), VILLA ROVERS 2 (Harry, McCabe).

ROOTS SPORTS RESERVES 0, LUMOCO SPORTS 1 (Fowler).

WILSDEN ATH 4 (Bennett 2, Pearson, WORKING 4 (Turner 3, Norman), HEXTON 1 (Martin, Meikle, Jenkins), TOTTERHAMOE RESERVES 2 (Gore, Mead).

LAPORTE RESERVES 0, SHAW AND KILBURN 10 (Gibbs 3, Owen 3, Hill 2, Hillier, Farington).

Rugby
Old Lutonians 21, Borderers 3.

Awakening from their lethargy of previous weeks, the Old Lutonians looked like running up a fifty-all score when they kicked off on Saturday.

The final result was, however, three goals, a try and a penalty goal to a penalty goal, all of the home side's points coming in the first half.

Almost directly from the kick-off their forwards took the ball into the Borderers' half and Packwood was well up to score. Adkins kicked the goal and the attack was resumed directly from the kick-off.

Persons running well, broke through in the centre, and Thurlow completed the movement. Then Thurlow gave Thorpe the chance to cross and score in the centre. Adkins again kicked the goal.

The attack was maintained throughout the first half. The ball was cunning from line-out and tight and loose scrums with regularity, and other tries must have come had not the back division thrown away chances. As it was a passing movement amongst the forwards enabled Kelly to cross and Adkins once again scored the goal. Adkins completed the scoring with a penalty.

The second half produced rugby of a different calibre.

The Borderers withdrew a man from the scrum and the additional player in the back division enabled them to bottle on the Old Boys attack.

Surprisingly, with a man short forward, they began obtaining possession from line-out and tight scrums and even when the ball came the Old Boys' way, it was not their fraction into late to beat the close defence.

penalty goal came towards the end of the game.

PRESSURE TOLD ON O.D.s IN THE END

Luton 'A' 17, Old Dunstable 'A' 3.

Opening the scoring in the first few minutes, when they converted a penalty, the Old Boys managed to hang on to

OUT-BUT IT WAS A VERY GALLANT EXIT

Town Worried Blackpool Almost To The Very End

By Chiltern

BLACKPOOL 2 LUTON TOWN 0
Right up to the closing minutes of these clubs' fourth attempt at Molineux Ground, Wolverhampton, on Monday to secure a decisive result, the Town were fighting as grimly as at any time during this struggle that will go into the F.A. Cup annals as a seven-hours epic.

Not until Blackpool gained a second goal, six minutes from the end, could they look upon their position in anything approaching comfort and, for a long time during the second half, there seemed a very real danger that the players would have to face extra time once again.

So, the Town went out of the competition for this season with their colours flying high and theirs was a gallant effort in view of the fact that for nearly an hour they had to play with a team reorganised by four positional changes caused by an injury to Owen.

He pulled a muscle quite early in the game, and this fact probably had a deal to do with what led up to Blackpool's first goal after 22 minutes which put them in the lead for the first time in the whole series.

Facing his own goal and not under pressure, though he probably hesitated to turn and clear because his leg was becoming increasingly troublesome, Owen made a back pass to Stretton.

Unfortunately, this, made wide of the goal, went much too high for Stretton to reach, and the result was a corner taken by Matthews which proved fatal to the Town, as it had been in bringing that late equaliser at Villa Park.

Not that it was a true vintage Matthews corner, for the ball went on too far to be of real value to Blackpool, and probably nothing would have come of it had not the ball rebounded against Watkins's knee and been deflected back into the danger zone.

Here, the dangerous PERRY, lurking in the middle, gained possession, and although he only half hit his shot the ball went through the knot of players and entered the corner of the net despite a frantic dive by Stretton.

TOWN SETTLED DOWN FIRST
Before that happened it had been the Town who had looked the most capable team and who settled down more quickly to the changed conditions. And the conditions had changed considerably for the worse since the teams had to contend with a bone-hard ground and a light ball that was most difficult to control on the uneven surface.

What the Town lacked during this early period of supremacy and, indeed, through the whole of the match, was marksmanship.

With an opportunist in form they could have won, as could have been the case in all of the other three games, and Blackpool's success came their way simply because they took advantage of their chances.

They could not claim to have had more of the play than the Town, over whom they certainly were not superior so far as teamwork was concerned, but their forwards, subdued for long periods, had spasms when they showed the ability to cut out openings in crisper style than did the Town.

Much of the Town's midfield work was well executed, and even when the reorganisation came and Owen led the line, with Moore at outside-right, there was some praiseworthy football, but it all came to nothing when the time to produce the scoring shot arrived.

Half-time instructions were for both wingers to get the ball across as often as possible to given Owen an opportunity to use his head, in the hope that he would follow in the path of the Blackpool skipper, Johnson, at Villa Park, and save the game.

However, though he harassed and harried the Blackpool defence, and kept the line moving, he had few opportunities of doing so, and almost the only occasion when the equaliser seemed to be on its way was when Moore headed the ball sharply downwards and Frith stopped it on the goal-line, with Farm out of position.

This was during the Town's long spell of heavy pressure during the second half, and it was in a breakaway that Blackpool obtained the goal that ended all Luton's hopes.

STEPHENSON was the scorer when he beat Stretton in a race for the ball after Perry had headed across a pass from Taylor.

Perhaps the Town did not have a real share of the "breaks" in this match that did not approach the standard of the other three, largely because of the difficult going, but they have learned the hard way that goals win Cup-ties as well as League matches.

They had their chances, none of them simple in these conditions, but the fact remains that the line did not look a scoring combination.

MOORE BETTER ON THE WING
At centre-forward, Moore was a disappointment, but his showing at outside-right suggested what many people have thought previously—that this may prove to be his best position. He provided a number of good centres after the interval and it was from this quarter that the Town's main threat came.

On the other wing, Mitchell was too erratic in his finishing and too often brushed off the ball by the hefty Shimwell to be rated a success and Cummins, though he worked as hard as ever, did not achieve quite so much with his scheming as in previous matches.

Nothing lethargic in this display
This lead until the interval, despite ural pressure from Luton, Shortly after the start of the second half, however, Evans broke through to score, and then Ruddick followed suit. A few minutes later Hawkes crossed the line and Burgess converted.

The scoring was completed by Peel, who dribbled for 20 yards before touching down.

HANDLING OF BACKS WAS POOR
Old Dunstable 11, Luton 8.

An excellent display of rugby was spoiled by the slap-dash handling of the Luton backs, who threw away several good scoring opportunities.

Both packs played well, with the Luton back row of Oakley, Swain and Becclemer outstanding.

J. Jones opened the scoring when he touched down his own kick ahead, Holloway converting, and 10 minutes later Holloway scored, but this time the kick failed.

The Old Boys rallied in the second half, but Luton held out.

VAUXHALL WERE WELL ON TOP
Vauxhall Motors 29, Leighton Buzzard 0.

Vauxhall were much too strong for Leighton and were worthy winners by 29-0 goals and three tries to nil.

The Motors' back, well led by Plowman, dominated the play and the home backs were able to start many good movements because of the grand service from the set scrums.

All the Vauxhall three-quarters handled well, with winger Stewart in very good form.

Tries were scored by Sieval (3), Long, Gudgein, Plowman and Tearle. Buckingham converted four of them.

SELECTIONS
440: Terry's Pat (Still) Waitina (Malcolm); 6:50: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 7:10: Chevalier (Lime); 8:10: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 9:10: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 10:10: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 11:10: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 12:10: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 13:10: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 14:10: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 15:10: Vero's (Pete) Murn (Chick); 16:10: Vero's