

Transfer-listed Downie Back

TOWN'S HUNT FOR PUNCH PUTS MORTON AS LEADER

Drastic measures to try to get the Town attack among the goals again are reflected in two forward changes made for the visit to Fulham on Saturday and herald the return of Johnny Downie, placed on the transfer list at his own request last week, to inside-left.

Out of the team go Peter MacEwan and George Cummins and, not unexpectedly, in view of the centre-forward problem and the way he shaped there in the last quarter of an hour against Stoke, Bob Morton has been chosen to lead the front line.

NOT since October, 1950, when he played three consecutive games and scored one goal, has Morton been chosen for the centre-forward position.

Since then he has spent his time exclusively in the middle line, mostly at right-half, but deputising most ably at centre-half, too, when Sid Owen has not been available.

After the injury to Jesse Pye and the subsequent difficulty there has been in filling the gap left, manager Dally Duncan has thought more than once of this move, but has been deterred both by the fact that Morton has been needed for centre-half recently, and by his great strength at right-half.

Time For "All Or Nothing" Gesture

NOW the time has come for an "all or nothing" gesture, for defeat at Craven Cottage on Saturday would probably mean the final shattering of this promotion dream which has been dimmed by the failures against Leicester and Stoke.

Morton has had quite a lot of experience in the middle, for he had a spell there in the Reserves and he has the attributes that go to make for success in this position.

One of these is the quality of his ball control which could make things difficult for former Town centre-half, Gordon Brice, who will be opposing him.

Downie's Big Chance To Secure A Place

FOR Downie, this promotion means a great chance and the first he has had in the senior team in a League game since he was omitted after the home match with Brentford on November 7.

He earns it by consistent displays in the Reserves and might have been recalled earlier had conditions been more to his liking when he was brought back for the friendly match with Hajduk.

If he can secure a regular place now, this could mean the end of his differences with the club which are based solely on the fact that he has had to spend such an extended period in second-team football.

Can Be Dangerous In Front Of Goal

DOWNIE can be more dangerous in front of goal than Cummins, whom he replaces after the Eire International has played in 28 consecutive League and Cup matches for the Town.

The manager says that Cummins has been "pulled down" considerably by the carbuncle trouble he has had in his thigh and which has been a handicap to him recently.

There has been, too, the factor that he has overworked through his liking for hanging on to the ball and the amount of chasing he does, and the original intention was to give him a rest.

MacEwan Feeling The Effects Of Training

THIS may have to be revised now because of the needs of the Reserve team in their vital match with Tottenham Hotspur at Kenilworth-road, plus the fact that Peter MacEwan who, according to the line of thought early in the week was to have led the Reserves' attack, will now be rested.

This is because he has begun to feel the effects of the full training to which he is unaccustomed and has complained of soreness in the shins, which is normal when a player begins to train in this way for the first time.

Will Be Able To Learn By Watching

"MORE training is the answer to that," says the manager, and MacEwan will begin to go back in the afternoons once he has recovered from some slight groin muscle trouble brought about by the heavy going last Saturday.

Now it has been decided that he will accompany the team to Fulham as twelfth man.

"By watching the game he will be able to see for himself just what this Second Division football entails," said the manager. MacEwan has been told that he is not to worry about being omitted.

"Perhaps you were pushed in a little too soon," the manager said to him, and all the Town officials are convinced that he will quickly settle down in English football.

Shanks Recalled To Right-Half

REPLACEMENT of Morton at right-half necessitated only the simple manoeuvre of recalling Shanks.

Rugby HEAVIEST DEFEAT FOR SOME YEARS

South Wigston Old Boys 19, Old Lutonians 5

Old Lutonians travelled all the way to Leicester on Saturday and met with their heaviest defeat for several years.

Their back division, weakened by the absence of Thorpe and Smith, was totally inadequate against very lively opponents, who finally triumphed by two goals and three tries to one goal.

Forward, the Lutonians possibly had the means of winning the game. Tight scrums and line-outs were dominated by them early in the game but their back division was not capable of taking advantage of their many opportunities. In the loose it was the South Wigston pack that excelled, and, gaining possession from several quick heels, their backs ran through the Luton defence and touched down three times in quick succession.

A change of tactics brought the Luton team into the attack and Fenmore, breaking through in the centre, brushed aside the full-back's tackle to score. Adkins converted to make the score nine points to five at half-time.

Directly after the interval Wigston were let through again for a further

LUTON TOWN F.C. Football Combination—Div. I SATURDAY, 20th FEBRUARY LUTON RESERVES

versus TOTTENHAM RESERVES

Kick-off 3 p.m. ADMISSION: Wing Stand and Enclosure 1/6, Boys 1/4; Bobbers' Stand 1/3, Boys 10d. (separate entrance); Ground (not covered) 1/4, Boys 9d.

would be partnered by Jim Pemberton or Ken Hawkes depends on whether Smith is available.

Were he not, then Pemberton would be required for the left-half position. "Spurs can put a very strong side into the field and will probably include David Dunmore, their new centre-forward from York City.

Triumphant Vauxhall Are Unchanged

TRIUMPHANT Vauxhall Motors, through to the final of the Bedfordshire Senior Cup in the most decisive style, are taking an unchanged team to Edmonton on Saturday for their match with Tufnell Park in the Spartan League.

Tufnell Park are in the lower reaches of the league table, but they have played fewer matches than their rivals, and Vauxhall are expecting quite a hard struggle.

Team: D. Jonstone; J. Burgess, A. Martin; J. O'Neill, J. Humphrey, D. Soper; J. Doan, G. Todd, W. Lawrence, R. Broadman, E. James.

Kent's Have Only One Doubt

WITH 11 points out of the last 14, Kent's Athletic are hoping to further improve their position in the South Midlands League at the expense of Dunstable Town Reserves, whom they receive at Walker-avenue on Saturday.

Hopes are that an unchanged team will be fielded, but there is a doubt about Ron Peel, who is ill, though the deputy for him, if necessary, has not been decided upon yet.

Probable team: R. Tottingham; W. Day, R. Noble; W. Meyrick, H. Naylor, J. Hui; K. Peel, P. Berry, R. Peel, R. Redding, A. Dickens.

After their heavy defeat by Elstow, changes are expected in the Reserve team to visit Davis Athletic, leaders of Division II.

Old Boys Are Back To Full Strength

AFTER an interval of two years, Old Lutonians R.F.C. are due to visit Leitchworth who, from all accounts, are a very much improved team.

Following their setback last Saturday, the Old Boys will be keen to get back on to the winning path and, with a team that is back to full strength, they are confident that this will be the case.

Team: Yorke; Smith, Thorpe, Robinson, Thurlow; Edmonds, Bracey; Adkins, Knapp, Shepherd, Heasue, Young, Cato, Fensome, Kelly.

Were Disappointed Last Saturday

BECAUSE the ground was unfit, Luton's match with Raynes Park O.B. last Saturday had to be cancelled, but there seems no danger of a similar happening this week when they entertain London Transport at Stockwood.

Team: Cannon; J. Jones, H. G. Jones, Holloway, Hawkes; Temple, Henman; Powell, Peirson, Hammond, Boswell, Skinner, Oakley, Beechener, Swain.

The "A" team, who had a convincing win over Bedford Athletic "A" last Saturday, visit London Transport at Osterley with the following:

Team: Ruddick, Burgess, Fox, Traberne, Coates; J. Evans, Sault; May, I. Evans, Lee, Thomas, A. Jones, Marshall, Hogg, Peel.

S. Midlands League SHOCK FOR THE LEADERS

Wootton Enter Race By Beating Baldock

Wootton Blue Cross have jumped into second place in the Premier Division of the South Midlands League, and to get there they beat the leaders, Baldock, on Saturday.

Position at the top is very open with Baldock six points in front of Wootton, who have a game in hand, and eight in front of Sheffield, who, however, have played five games less.

One of the most disappointing teams this season have been Arlesey Town, who, after winning the title in successive years, have slipped badly and are having to content themselves with a place in the middle of the table.

On Saturday they crashed heavily when they met lowly Leitchworth, and were beaten 6-2.

There are only three teams actively interested in the Division I championship—Electrolux, Marston Shelton and Vauxhall.

Electrolux and Vauxhall drew, but Marston Shelton beat Blechley L.M.S. and are now sharing first place with Electrolux. As they have games in hand they must be considered favourites for the title.

CLEAR LEAD FOR DAVIS For a long time, Rootes Sports and Davis Athletic have been fighting it out at the top of Division II, but now Davis have taken a clear lead.

On Saturday they beat Wootton Blue Cross 7-3, whereas Rootes were surprisingly beaten by Baldock.

Elstow Abbey kept on the fringe of the promotion hunt when they beat close rivals Kent's Athletic, but the Division II race must be considered a two-horse affair, with Davis the favourite now they are approaching "the final straight."

PREMIER DIVISION

Bedford Corinthians 2, Kent's Ath. 3
Dunstable Town 5, Cranfield Utd. 0
Potton United 1, Ampthill Town 1
Wootton Blue Cross 2, Baldock Town 1
Leitchworth Town 6, Arlesey Town 2

DIVISION I

Leighton United 1, Blechley B.O.B. 5
Marston Shelton 3, Blechley L.M.S. 1
Stotfold 7, Houghton Rangers 1
Vauxhall Motors 2, Electrolux 1
Waterloo's 0, Queen's Works 1

DIVISION II

Baldock Town 3, Rootes Sports 1
Bedford North End 3, Peartree Old Boys 0
Canfield United 0, Lynton Works 1
Fulwell Ath. 11, Britannia Works 0
Davis Ath. 7, Wootton Blue Cross 3
Kent's Ath. 2, Elstow Abbey 7.

DARTS

TODDINGTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE DIVISION "A"

Red Lion, Bedford 21 15 4 2 34
Chiswick 20 10 8 2 38
Dug and Ridge 20 11 6 3 28
Frying Horse 21 12 4 5 28
Royal Oak, Barton 20 10 6 4 26
Geotree 20 10 4 6 24
Floodgate Sports 20 9 6 5 24
Fancott Arms 21 9 5 7 23
Argel 21 6 5 10 17
Carpenters Arms 21 6 5 10 16
White Hart 20 6 4 10 16
Swan, Fritwell 20 5 4 11 14
Wheatheaf 21 4 13 12
Swan, Tingleth 21 4 13 11
Riving Sun 21 2 3 16 7

DIVISION "B"

Red Lion, Toddington 22 17 1 38
Griffin 22 11 8 3 30
Couch and Horne 22 12 5 5 29
Royal Oak, Woburn 21 11 6 5 28
Crown 22 11 5 6 27
Buckingham 22 10 8 3 27
Companies 22 10 3 9 23
Jolly Couper 22 10 3 9 23
French Horn 22 8 5 9 21
Nass Head 22 7 5 10 19
O. d'elwines 22 7 5 10 19
Fitz 22 6 5 10 18
New Inn 22 6 7 13 16
Red Lion, Everholt 22 6 3 13 15
Social and Services 22 4 4 14 12
Gusto Man 22 4 3 15 11

TOO-CLOSE ATTACK HAD NO FINISH

Gift Goal Beat Town, But They Had Their Chances

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 0 STOKE CITY 1

If ever there were a match that the Town needed to win, this was it, but they threw away the opportunity of picking up the two points vital to them in their promotion bid by the use of the wrong tactics on the muddy Kenilworth-road pitch and by the weakness of their finishing.

This lack of goals, which has now reached epidemic proportions, has caused the Town to lose ground badly in the promotion race and they are not making the most of opportunities that come their way.

Despite the fact that they consistently kept the ball too close, chances did occur, to be wasted by poor shooting, or by the fact that no shot came at all.

Perhaps it is a direct product of the goal famine, but the Town forwards seldom showed the inclination to have a go from the region of 20 yards, as Stoke did. Rather, they tried to reach closer range, maybe with the underlying idea of trying to make certain that the barren spell should come to an end.

With the ball so greasy and the going treacherous, shots from almost any range could be troublesome to goalkeepers, and Stretton discovered that even the most innocent looking sort of pass held hidden danger.

This occurred in the 25th minute, when, having shouted to the men in front of him to allow a through pass to go to him, he found the ball slipping out of his grasp and before he could recover MALKIN, who had been lurking close by, had the ball in the back of the net.

GIFT GOAL MEANT TWO POINTS

A gift goal, it was, but it meant two points to Stoke, who earned them if only for their rugged determination, the way they suited their tactics to the conditions and the more adventurous spirit of their forwards.

Earlier, the Town had had a couple of good chances of taking the lead. First, MacEwan shot against the foot of the post and then Turner, sent through by Watkins, blazed the ball high over when, had he kept it low, he could have given Robertson little chance.

Attempts by the Town to equalise were driven off, and then suddenly, Stoke took complete charge of the game for a short spell and might very easily have increased their lead. Martin rattled the Luton crossbar, both Hutton and Bowyer were only inches wide, and Stretton twice saved brilliantly from Hutton.

During this time Stoke pointed the way to the Town by moving the ball about quickly a demonstration from which the Town did not benefit for they continued to keep the ball too close in the second half.

They had a lot of the play, but few worthwhile shots, though Turner was unlucky to see a shot headed away by Bourne with Robertson right out of position.

Meanwhile, Bowyer had seen a shot go over off the top of the net, and Luton's most persistent effort, did not arrive until Morton was switched into the middle with MacEwan at outside-left, Mitchell outside-right and Davies right-half.

Many Town supporters considered that Morton had scored when Robertson mishandled a shot from him and the ball spun behind him but the referee, after a glance at the linesman, ruled that the ball had not crossed the line.

So, the Stoke defence which had

TOWN "B's" LONG UNBEATEN RUN COMES TO AN END

Woburn's Hand Strengthened Although They Are Displaced

The thirteenth match after they had suffered their only previous defeat in Luton and South Beds League proved fatal to Luton Town "B" on Saturday, when they were overcome by Luton O.B. by the only goal scored.

Effect is to strengthen the position of unbeaten Woburn Athletic, although they lost the leadership of Division I temporarily to Leagrave B.L. Woburn now have two more points than the Town "B" from the same number of games.

That Leagrave B.L. have gone ahead is merely incidental, for they have the advantage of only one point over Woburn and have played four matches more.

Although Luton O.B. move into third place, they, too, have had more fixtures and the Town "B" remain as the only likely challengers to Woburn.

With neither of the leading lights in the Premier Division, Napier Sports and Barton Rovers, having a match, there was no change, although Stopsley continued their onward drive, if they keep up their form, could be concerned in the fight for honours.

Biggest win of the day was by Caddington, scorers of nine goals, five of them from Fullerton, at Dagnall.

Luton Social struck a blow in their fight to get away from the danger zone by their only goal win over fellow strugglers, Pioneer Corinthians, now bracketed at the bottom with Tottenham.

The unrelenting struggle between Hockliffe and Lilley Rangers for supremacy in Division I goes on unabated and both won on Saturday, Lilley had the easier task, for Hockliffe, still a point ahead, had quite a struggle against Glendale.

Back into top gear clicked the scoring machine of Sandon Park who, smacked in 13 against Alliance Foundry and showed that their lapse against Luton Brewery the previous week was only temporary.

However, Caddington, other prolific scorers, took their total into the nineties with seven against Bidwell and retained the leadership of Division III, though Sandon Park are only two points behind and have a match in hand.

Defeats of both Walcot Athletic and English Electric makes the race here virtually a "two-horse" one.

At the other end of the table, Crescent United maintained their improvement and it was a great performance on their part to account for highly-placed English Electric.

Most amazing match in this division was that between Sandon O.B. and Leagrave Athletic Reserves, which produced 17 goals, ten of them to the former, for whom Roe scored seven times.

Although Shaw and Kilburn were given a hard battle by Luton O.B. Reserves, they won through to retain their lead in Division IV, though only narrowly from Cockernhoe and Percival Apprentices.

Norcott obtained four goals for the Apprentices and thus maintained his record of having scored in every game in which he has played.

PREMIER DIVISION

TOTTENHAM 2 (Phillips, Wills)
GLENDAL 5 (Cusson 2, Evans 2, Jones)

LUTON SOCIAL I (Brown), PIONEER CORINTHIANS 0

STOPSLEY 6 (Clarke 2, Poth, Owens, Gurnard, Gibbs), TODDINGTON Rovers 2

DAGNALL 0, CADDINGTON 9 (Fullerton 5, Pain 2, Banks, Austin)

DIVISION I

SHILLINGTON 'A' 6 (West 4, Diller, Day, Butts, Hare), R.A.F. 0

LAPORTE 3 (Dent 2, Soale), WELLS PARK 3 (Smyle 2, Fensome)

LUTON O.B. 1 (Evans), LUTON TOWN 'B' 0

DIVISION II

POYNTERS ROAD 3 (Tollevy, Thompson), LIMBURY O.B. 1 (Shepherd)

LIMBURY O.B. 'B' 3 (King, Pain, Clark), BISCOT MILL 2 (Harvey, Odell)

OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 3 (North 2, Pedder), LANGLEY RANGERS 7 (Bunce 3, Newton, Trotter, Pearson, Jones)

LEIGHTON HOTSPUR 5, SKEFKE ATH. 6 (Halliwell 3, Coppin 2, Bunham)

DIVISION III

POYNTERS ROAD 3 (Blowers 1, Shamul 2, Roberts 2, Haves), BOYS CLUB 2 (Jackson, Holdstock)

FLITWICK 5 (Warner 2, Stringer, Fenner, Payne), OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 1 (Prime)

DIVISION IV

VAUXHALL JUNIORS 13 (Crane 6, Mier 3, Harris 3, Dines 2)

FAIRLEY HILL 1 (Aikman, Thompson), LIMBURY O.B. 1 (Shepherd)

LIMBURY O.B. 'B' 3 (King, Pain, Clark), BISCOT MILL 2 (Harvey, Odell)

OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 3 (North 2, Pedder), LANGLEY RANGERS 7 (Bunce 3, Newton, Trotter, Pearson, Jones)

LEIGHTON HOTSPUR 5, SKEFKE ATH. 6 (Halliwell 3, Coppin 2, Bunham)

DIVISION V

POYNTERS ROAD 3 (Blowers 1, Shamul 2, Roberts 2, Haves), BOYS CLUB 2 (Jackson, Holdstock)

FLITWICK 5 (Warner 2, Stringer, Fenner, Payne), OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 1 (Prime)

DIVISION VI

VAUXHALL JUNIORS 13 (Crane 6, Mier 3, Harris 3, Dines 2)

FAIRLEY HILL 1 (Aikman, Thompson), LIMBURY O.B. 1 (Shepherd)

LIMBURY O.B. 'B' 3 (King, Pain, Clark), BISCOT MILL 2 (Harvey, Odell)

OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 3 (North 2, Pedder), LANGLEY RANGERS 7 (Bunce 3, Newton, Trotter, Pearson, Jones)

LEIGHTON HOTSPUR 5, SKEFKE ATH. 6 (Halliwell 3, Coppin 2, Bunham)

DIVISION VII

POYNTERS ROAD 3 (Blowers 1, Shamul 2, Roberts 2, Haves), BOYS CLUB 2 (Jackson, Holdstock)

FLITWICK 5 (Warner 2, Stringer, Fenner, Payne), OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 1 (Prime)

DIVISION VIII

VAUXHALL JUNIORS 13 (Crane 6, Mier 3, Harris 3, Dines 2)

FAIRLEY HILL 1 (Aikman, Thompson), LIMBURY O.B. 1 (Shepherd)

LIMBURY O.B. 'B' 3 (King, Pain, Clark), BISCOT MILL 2 (Harvey, Odell)

OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 3 (North 2, Pedder), LANGLEY RANGERS 7 (Bunce 3, Newton, Trotter, Pearson, Jones)

LEIGHTON HOTSPUR 5, SKEFKE ATH. 6 (Halliwell 3, Coppin 2, Bunham)

DIVISION IX

POYNTERS ROAD 3 (Blowers 1, Shamul 2, Roberts 2, Haves), BOYS CLUB 2 (Jackson, Holdstock)

FLITWICK 5 (Warner 2, Stringer, Fenner, Payne), OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 1 (Prime)

DIVISION X

VAUXHALL JUNIORS 13 (Crane 6, Mier 3, Harris 3, Dines 2)

FAIRLEY HILL 1 (Aikman, Thompson), LIMBURY O.B. 1 (Shepherd)

LIMBURY O.B. 'B' 3 (King, Pain, Clark), BISCOT MILL 2 (Harvey, Odell)

OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 3 (North 2, Pedder), LANGLEY RANGERS 7 (Bunce 3, Newton, Trotter, Pearson, Jones)

LEIGHTON HOTSPUR 5, SKEFKE ATH. 6 (Halliwell 3, Coppin 2, Bunham)

DIVISION XI

POYNTERS ROAD 3 (Blowers 1, Shamul 2, Roberts 2, Haves), BOYS CLUB 2 (Jackson, Holdstock)

FLITWICK 5 (Warner 2, Stringer, Fenner, Payne), OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 1 (Prime)

DIVISION XII

VAUXHALL JUNIORS 13 (Crane 6, Mier 3, Harris 3, Dines 2)

FAIRLEY HILL 1 (Aikman, Thompson), LIMBURY O.B. 1 (Shepherd)

LIMBURY O.B. 'B' 3 (King, Pain, Clark), BISCOT MILL 2 (Harvey, Odell)

OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 3 (North 2, Pedder), LANGLEY RANGERS 7 (Bunce 3, Newton, Trotter, Pearson, Jones)

LEIGHTON HOTSPUR 5, SKEFKE ATH. 6 (Halliwell 3, Coppin 2, Bunham)

DIVISION XIII

POYNTERS ROAD 3 (Blowers 1, Shamul 2, Roberts 2, Haves), BOYS CLUB 2 (Jackson, Holdstock)

FLITWICK 5 (Warner 2, Stringer, Fenner, Payne), OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 1 (Prime)

DIVISION XIV

VAUXHALL JUNIORS 13 (Crane 6, Mier 3, Harris 3, Dines 2)

FAIRLEY HILL 1 (Aikman, Thompson), LIMBURY O.B. 1 (Shepherd)

LIMBURY O.B. 'B' 3 (King, Pain, Clark), BISCOT MILL 2 (Harvey, Odell)

OLD BEDFORD-ROAD O.B. 3 (North 2, Pedder), LANGLEY RANGERS 7 (Bunce 3, Newton, Trotter, Pearson, Jones)

LEIGHTON HOTSPUR 5, SKEFKE ATH. 6 (Halliwell 3, Coppin 2, Bunham)

DIVISION XV

POYNTERS