

Owen Is Likely To Return

GOOD RECOVERY BEING MADE BY WALLY SHANKS

Injury has taken a heavy toll of the Town's half-back strength recently, but Manager Dally Duncan is hopeful that Sid Owen, who has missed the last two matches because of a damaged ankle, will be able to return to the team for their visit to Lincoln City on Saturday.

This week he has been back in full training and, yesterday, was described as having a good chance of playing, in which case, that is the only change contemplated.

Not that Wally Shanks, who received a nasty knock against Notts County is 100 per cent certain yet of being in the line-up, for he was still limping slightly yesterday.

However, the trouble is no more than bad bruising, fortunately, and with the bruise coming out quickly, Shanks, himself is confident that he will be available.

Most hopeful that this will be the case is the manager, for Charlie Watkins, having been ordered to rest his strained muscle, is out of training, and cannot come into consideration for a place.

Another Chance For The Forward Line

If Owen returns, Leslie Hall, who has put up a couple of fine displays, will return to the Reserves, who will welcome his experience in what is likely to be quite a hard fight against Bournemouth at Kenilworth-road.

The manager has decided against making changes in the attack that shaped well enough at Hull, though it did not look so cohesive last Saturday and Gordon Turner will have another chance to retrieve his reputation as an opportunist.

"It is not as if he is missing the goal by yards, and he is on the target at least," was the manager's comment yesterday.

Should Appreciate Lincoln's Pitch

PROBABLY, the manager is banking, too, on the fact that the forwards play better away from home and he thinks that they will appreciate the wider confines of the Sincil Bank ground, where the pitch is one of the best in the country.

Probable team: Stretton, Jones, Ahern, Morton, Owen or Hall, Shanks, Cullen, Turner, Scott, Downie, Davies.

This is likely to be a hard struggle, for Lincoln are not entirely out of the relegation wood and they have gained only one point out of the last 10 at stake.

In fact, their only League win this year was in the vital tussle with Brentford at Griffin Park and that was worth virtually four points to them.

Doubts Delay Their Team Selection

MANAGER Bill Anderson has not yet been able to announce his team and will not do so until tomorrow, because there are slight doubts about two players, Graver, their leading scorer with 22 goals, and Clews, the winger they signed from Wolves and who broke through in the Forest at Nottingham last Saturday, but are regarded as having a reasonably good chance of being fit.

The Lincoln front line has been strengthened recently by the return, following a spell on the injured list, of Garvie, and it is lack of scoring power that has caused the City to slip so badly.

Their team last week was: Lowrie, Green, Killin, Wright, Emery, Owen, Munro, Garvie, Graver, Finch, Clews.

Alwyn McGuffie To Be Given A Rest

FOLLOWING their set-back at Ipswich, the Reserves will be doubly keen to make no mistakes.

Rugby

OLD BOYS OVERCAME BAD CONDITIONS

Old Hertfordians 6, Old Lutonians 14

Old Lutonians won this very enjoyable game at Hertford by a goal and three tries to a try and a penalty goal. Despite the combination of a blustery crosswind and a light ball, both teams succeeded in playing open rugby.

A feature of the game was, in fact, the obvious efforts of each team to start attacking movements at every possible opportunity.

The Lutonians went ahead when Thorpe touched down in the corner following a kick ahead by Robinson. Fensome playing in the centre three-quarter position, had a successful first quarter of an hour, breaking through time and time again, and it was from one of these breaks that the forwards, well up in support, scored through Cain. Adkins converted from a difficult position.

The Luton side had to be content with this lead for the remainder of the first half despite the fact that they did most of the attacking.

After the interval it was the Old Hertfordians who applied pressure and, despite fine defensive kicking by Robinson, they scored in quick succession a penalty goal and a try. They continued to press but the game changed suddenly when Old Lutonians broke loose and from a scrum on the home line pushed over for Packwood to score.

Following this both teams threw themselves into attack and play swung backwards and forwards in mid-field with the advantage slightly with the Old Lutonians. Up inside the Hertford "25" Robinson attempted a dropped goal but the wind took the ball, and assisted by a heavy defensive kick it sailed into touch right on the home goal line. From the throw in Adkins took the ball unmarked and threw himself over the line for what must have been the simplest try of the season.

Mention must be made of the excellent play of Heanue and Young in the forwards and Robinson's kicking in the backs.

BEAT OLD BOYS COMFORTABLY

Old Verulamians 0, Luton 12

Although Luton three-quarter Hawkes opened the scoring with a good try in the early minutes of this game the Old Boys fought back strongly and there was no doubt that the game was a draw until the last 10 minutes of the game when J. Jones (2), and Whitlam added tries.

Holloway, usually so confident, did not convert one of them.

GOOD DISPLAY BY MOTORS

Vauxhall Motors 16, Northampton Crusaders 6

This victory was in the nature of "revenge" for the Crusaders inflicted a heavy defeat on the Motors earlier in the season.

It was a keenly contested game and the packs were very evenly matched. The tight scrums were shared, with the honours going to the Crusaders in the lines-out and to the Motors in the loose.

There was no score before the interval although Vauxhall were on the offensive for most of the time.

After the interval Vauxhall kicked downhill and took command. Edwards opened a scoring, Price converting and then Booth touched down for Price to convert again.

Several three-quarter raids looked dangerous without quite succeeding until a brilliant run by Strevell, in which he beat four opponents, brought another try. The scoring was completed when Price kicked a penalty.

Vauxhall can be pleased with this display. The forwards were well led by Playow while the three-quarter ran well and received a good service from Harrowell.

matches in the Spartan League at home.

On Saturday, when they received Marlow, they will be playing on their own ground for the third consecutive week.

This time, they are hoping to do one better than in their last two encounters in both of which they dropped a point, and they will be reinforced by the return of Humphrey, who had to stand down last Saturday.

Team: D. Johnston; J. Burgess, K. Stirling; J. O'Neill, J. Humphrey, D. Soper; T. Dolan, G. Todd, W. Lawrence, R. Brandham, E. James.

Full-Back Remains On The Wing

AFTER a rest last Saturday, Kent's Athletic resume their South Midlands League programme with a home match against Letchworth Town, whom they beat earlier in the season, but their opponents have made a big improvement since then.

Reg Noble, who did well on the wing after moving there because of injury in the last match, will remain there, with Jim Nelson taking over at left-back.

Team: R. Toffingham; W. Day, J. Nelson; W. Meyrick, H. Naylor, J. Holt; A. Dickers, P. Berry, A. N. Other, R. Redding, R. Noble.

Semi-Finals Of The Creamer Cup

BOTH semi-finals of the Alfred Creamer Cup competition, for young teams, have been arranged to take place on the ground of Watlington Athletic.

In the first, on Saturday, Lymington will meet Luton Hotspur and the other between Leighton Hotspur and Houghton Regis, will be staged on March 27.

The final will be played on the ground of Leighton United at 10.15 a.m. later in the season.

Old Boys Hope To Lay A Bogey

SINCE their club was re-formed in 1946, Old Lutonians R.F.C. have not been able to beat the strong Bedford Athletic team, but they are hoping to open their winning account against them on Saturday when the Athletic are the visitors to Stockwood Park.

A needle match is expected, for the Old Boys will have the following powerful side in the field:

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

Two Luton Teams Go To Northampton

THE first and "A" XV's of Luton R.F.C. will both be travelling to Northampton on Saturday to meet Northampton Men's Own.

Townsend, a useful newcomer to the club, has been included in the senior pack and G. Williams, who captained the Extra "A" last Saturday, will be on the wing in the "A" team, with Ruddick moving to wing forward.

1st XV: Todd; J. Jones, H. G. Jones, Holloway, Hawkes; Temple, Hemman; Powell, Peirson, Skinner, Boswell, Townsend, Oakley, Cannon, Swain.

FIRST WIN FOR FARLEY

Saturday was a big day for Farley Hill C.A., in the Chiltern Youth League 14-18 Division, for they recorded their first win of the season.

The first seven games they played brought them experience, but no points, and on from they could not have expected much reward from their meeting with Old Bedford-road but they won 1-0 and handed over the bottom place to Luton Hotspur, who, although they scored four goals, were beaten by their Leighton namesakes.

Luton Town Youth XI have taken over the leadership in the Senior Division, one point in front of Langley Rangers who, however, did not have a game. Old Bedford-road who were at the top of the 14-18 Division, lost to Vauxhall Minors, with the result that the lead is now shared by Flitwick Brotherhood and Vauxhall.

14/18

FARLEY HILL C.A. 1 (Ewart), OLD BEDFORD-ROAD 0. BISCONTI MILL B.C. 1 (Warrell), SKEFKE ATH 9 (Halliwell 4, Brown 4, Coppin).

14/18

LIMBURY O.B. 3 (Brown 2, Orchard), POYNTERS - ROAD 3 (Shamul 2, Roberts).

FLITWICK BROTHERHOOD 2 (Hardy, Payne), BISCONTI MILL B.C. 2 (Ewart 2).

VAUXHALL MINORS 2 (Crew, Evans), OLD BEDFORD-ROAD 1. LUTON HOTSPUR 4 (Cooper 1, Hawkes 1, LUTON BOYS' CLUB 3 (Jackson 2, Smith).

Luton Greyhounds

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR SATURDAY

6.30-4.40 (yards): 5 Capricious, 231 Johnny Boy, 22 Lynne (Mar 3), to 6.24.77, 6 No Lady, 333 Snowdrift, 154 Sporting Express, reserve 553 Keep Smale.

6.50 (470 yards): 442 Anne, 6 Daisy Lady (Jan 9), to 1.25.15, Mar 8, to 2.47.77, 6 No Lady, 333 Snowdrift, 154 Sporting Express, reserve 553 Keep Smale.

7.10-4.40 (yards): 231 Egg Cup, 53 Fawn Light, Katrina (Feb 25, to 4.24.81), Mar 6, to 2.47.77, 6 No Lady, 333 Snowdrift, 154 Sporting Express, reserve 553 Keep Smale.

7.50-4.40 (yards): 255 Bentley, Bottoms (Feb 20, to 4.24.82, Mar 6, to 2.47.77, 6 No Lady, 333 Snowdrift, 154 Sporting Express, reserve 553 Keep Smale).

8.10-4.40 (yards): 244 MacNab, Mid-Day (Dec 17, to 6.24.84, Mar 6, to 2.47.77, 6 No Lady, 333 Snowdrift, 154 Sporting Express, reserve 553 Keep Smale).

8.50-4.40 (yards): 411 Bill Badger, 211 Georina, 54 Mudlark, 31 Pfisterer, 333 Rubber Neck, 2 So Quiet, reserve 553 Keep Smale.

SELECTIONS

6.30: Sporting Express (Lynne, Johnny Boy); 6.50: Anne (Vera's Pet, Daisy Lady); 7.10: Whipped Cream (Volante, Sally Ann); 7.30: Red Head (Jinle Bell, Speckled Band); 7.50: Something Short (Bottoms Up, Nut Brown); 8.10: Camp (Inglis, Golden Penny, Lottie); 8.30: MacNab (Pet Lion, Red Scarf); 8.50: Bill Badger (Mudlark, Pfisterer).



LONG RUN WAS ENDED

Reserves Had Their Chances

Ipswich Town Res. 3, Luton Town Res. 1

A consistent run by the Town Reserves of eight matches without defeat that began on January 2, was brought to an end in somewhat unexpected fashion by Ipswich at Portman-road on Saturday.

Reasonably strong finishing in the first half would have enabled the Town to return with at least one point to press home their championship claims, but most of their shooting was weak.

Only one who looked as if he might beat McMillan was Mitchell and, oddly enough, all the forwards except him had first-half chances.

When the Town did go into arrears after the interval, it was in somewhat unlucky fashion, for Ipswich were awarded a penalty when McGuffie accidentally caught Phillips's heel.

In the meantime, Baynham had gained possession of the ball, but the referee promptly penalised the Town and DOBSON scored from the spot.

That was the fore-runner of a hat-trick for DOBSON, who snapped up two more chances to put Ipswich comfortably ahead.

Between the second and third goals, Bennett damaged ligaments in an ankle and, after being carried off the field, took no further part in the game.

In the closing stages, the Town rallied briefly and MITCHELL obtained a consolation goal for them with a neat header.

Although in his eagerness to seek scoring chances, Mitchell was often out of position, he was the most dangerous Town forward and, with Allen, formed the more progressive pair.

Neither Bennett nor Moore achieved a great deal and MacEwan, though he worked hard and fully tested McMillan with a hard drive before the interval, showed that he still needs speeding up.

With McGuffie not quite reaching the high standard he has set for himself in recent matches, Pemberton was the best of the middle line, for Dallas had only a fair game and lost his grip on Dobson in the second half.

Dunne gave quite an impressive display, with Hawkes not very far behind and there was no fault to find with Baynham, who had not the slightest chance with any of the goals scored against him.

IPSWICH TOWN RES.: McMillan, Hunter, Snell; Murchison, Hunt, Jones (W.); Cavanagh, Callaghan, Dobson, Phillips, Ball, LUTON TOWN RES.: Baynham, Dunne, Hawkes; A. McGuffie, Dallas, Pemberton; Bennett, Moore, MacEwan, Allen, Mitchell.

SCORED 100th GOAL, YET LOST A VITAL POINT

Sundon Park Hold Advantage Now In A "Two-Horse" Race

Scoring of their hundredth goal of the season by Caddington "B," leaders of Division III of Luton and South Beds League, was not celebrated, as they had hoped by another victory.

Instead, they left behind a point when they returned from their visit to Leagrave Athletic Reserves, and this increases materially the title chances of Sundon Park, who go on piling up the goals merrily and their average per match is over seven.

Situation here is that Sundon Park, with a match in hand, are now only a point behind, and, despite the consistency of Walcot Athletic, this is really a two-horse race.

Only change of leadership as the result of last Saturday's fixtures was in Division I where Leagrave B.L. dropped to third place, with Woburn Athletic regaining the lead, followed, a point behind, by Luton Town "B" and it seems certain that it will be between these two teams that the final battle will be fought out.

Piquancy is added to the position by the fact that they have yet to meet, and that it will be the Town's home match.

Recovering from their setback of the previous week, Napier Sports had no difficulty in accounting for Luton Social, in the end, but, playing against only ten men, they were much below championship form in the first half after which they crossed over a goal in arrears.

Barton Rovers, who were without a match, can get to within a point of the leaders by winning their three outstanding games.

In a hard fight at Caddington, Stopsley led their hopes blighted in the narrowest possible fashion, and the villagers move into second place for the time being.

Clear-cut victory of Pioneer Corinthians relieved some of their anxiety about relegation and increased that entertained by Social and Totternhoe.

The first four teams in Division II made no mistake about winning, but Hockliffe hold a strong hand here and only Liberty Rangers seem to hold a reasonable chance of catching them.

In Division IV the struggle goes on unabated, with S.W. and Kilburn still holding their lead of four points, and Percival Apprentices, and Cockernhoe going along happily and consistently, with Lumoco Sports not completely out of the picture.

PREMIER DIVISION

NAPIER SPORTS 4 (Cubberley 2, Bachi 2), LUTON SOCIAL 1 (Cubberley 1, Bachi 1).

PIONEER CORINTHIANS 4 (Parrott 2, Stoker, Groom), GLENDALE 0 (Caddington 3, Fullerton, Banks, Austin), STOPSLEY 2 (Clarke, Gutter).

SHILLINGTON 6 (Saunders 2, Flint 2, Millard, Thompson), DAGNALL UTD 0.

DIVISION I

LEAGRAVE B.L. 1 (Sampson), LAPORTE 2 (Dent, M. Manu), BELLS PARK 8 (Smyle 4, C. Fensome 3, Tobin), LUTON O.B. 3 (Evans, Basterfield, Baynham), WEST PARK (Fisher), LEAGRAVE ATH. 5 (Sine 2, Tamley, Humphreys, Gull).

ELECTROLUX 1 (Gills), WOBURN ATH. 4 (Ingle 4).

LUTON TOWN "B" 1 (Wheelhouse 2, Care), R.A.F. 0.

DIVISION II

EATON BRAY UTD. 6 (Jones 2).

CRY THAT HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED YET

More Accuracy In Their Finishing Is Town's Need

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2 NOTTS COUNTY ... 1

There was not a great deal in this success to re-awaken the waning enthusiasm of the Town fans, reflected in the downward trend of the attendance, but there could have been if several relatively simple scoring chances had been accepted.

All through this season the cry for more goals has been one that has been answered only seldom and certainly was not in this match, even though the narrow victory completed a double over the struggling County.

It was struggling Luton on this occasion, too, fighting, first of all, to take the lead after chances had been frittered away, and then to regain it after losing their narrow advantage somewhat unluckily while Shanks was off the field with a thigh injury.

Apart from shots by Johnston, Coole and Taylor, with which Shanks dealt most capably, the Town had by far the better of the opening stages, and their first goal, most neatly headed by DAVIES from Cullen's centre after half an hour, was much overdue.

This followed closely on the heels of a had miss by Turner, who, left with only Bradley to beat, shot the ball against the goalkeeper.

Not until a minute from half-time were the County really dangerous, and then some slack marking allowed Crookes and Wylie to come through with the ball, and from the latter's cross TAYLOR smartly tapped the ball over the line for the equaliser.

At that stage, with the return of Shanks somewhat uncertain, the immediate future did not look altogether cheerful for the Town, but happily Shanks was able to come back with his colleagues after the interval.

SOON RETURNED TO HIS OWN POSITION

At first he went to centre-forward, with Scott at outside-left and Davies at left-half, but as he moved about so he lost his limp, and after five minutes was able to resume at left-half.

The early part of the half brought no noticeable improvement in the finishing of the Town forwards, for Turner blazed the ball over the bar from a good position, and then shot straight at Bradley after the goalkeeper had done exceptionally well to keep out a drive by Downie.

From the second rebound, and in a difficult position, Cullen put the ball outside, so that the County had a free-fold, escape in a matter of seconds.

Looming close was the possible loss of another home point when the reserve came 20 minutes from the end when DOWNIE got up high to head downwards a cross by Cullen.

Faced with an awkward ball, Bradley half saved, but it spun away from him and crossed the line, despite the efforts of a defender to clear. Just to make certain, Scott banged it into the back of the net.

Immediately afterwards came a shock for the Town, when the County went too close to equalising for comfort, when Crookes shot hastily into the side-net after Stretton had had to push out a centre from the right.

Just as well from the Town point of view that the County did not reach equality again, for their forwards did not suggest that further goals were within their compass.

Some of the Town's approach

work was meritorious enough and accurate enough to produce the chances for half a dozen goals, so that remains the finishing as the department in which decisive improvement is necessary.

NOTHING GOES RIGHT FOR TURNER

Having one of those spells when just nothing goes right for him in this line is Turner, the chief offender in the matter of missed chances in this match, and he is lacking both accuracy and, perhaps, a streak of luck in his shooting.

Piel, of the forwards was Downie, by reason of his good distribution and ability to open out the play, but there was a deal of dash and enthusiasm from Scott which even his experience of Leuty could not blunt entirely.

More shooting from the centre-forward position is desirable, though not the best of openings came Scott's way.

Cullen centred the ball more often and more accurately than did Davies, particularly in the second half, but earlier the left-winger had raided with quite an amount of success.

From Hall there was another strong, assured game which left few loopholes for Johnston, and Morton and Shanks usually held the upper hand in the middle of the field, too. Shanks had a nasty knock on the thigh, and it was quite a plucky effort to return so promptly.

Ahern was the better full-back because he was more confident in his kicking than his partner, Jones, and marked his winger more closely.

Stretton's chief contribution to this victory came when he made a couple of fine saves early on, but he was not really extended afterwards.

LUTON TOWN: Stretton; Jones, Ahern; Morton, Hall, Shanks, Cullen, Turner, Scott, Downie, Davies.

NOTTS COUNTY: Bradley; Southwell, Downie; Adamson, Leuty, Chatlam; Coole, Taylor, Johnston, Wylie, Crookes.

Referee: R. J. Burgess, Reading.

Attendance: 14,623.

S. Midlands League

SHEFFORD IN STRONG POSITION

Young Vauxhall Team Impressed

With five games in hand and only four points behind Baldock, Shefford Town are back in second place in the South Midlands League (Premier Division).

On Saturday, Baldock were held to a draw by Biggleswade and Wootton Blue Cross were beaten by Ampthill Town after a thrilling struggle.

After a draw with Wotton's (a) from grace results went very much according to form in the Premier Division, although Letchworth caused a mild surprise by beating Dunstable Town.

There were shocks in Division I, where Marston Shelton and Electrolux, the two leading teams, lost to Stotfold and Vauxhall Motors respectively.

Vauxhall's victory was worth four points to them and if they can maintain their present form they may finish the season at the top of the table.

If they managed to do this it would be a fine achievement for the average age of the side is under 20. At the moment they are in third place, only one point behind the joint leaders.

As expected, Davis Athletic continued their winning way in Division II and celebrated their 23rd game without defeat by notching their 100th goal against local rivals, Kent's Athletic.

Davis, red-hot favourites for the Division II championship, have now scored 101 goals and conceded only 28.

PREMIER DIVISION

Ampthill Town 4, Wootton Blue Cross 3.

Biggleswade 2, Vauxhall Motors 1.

Baldock Town 2, Baldock Town 2.

Dunstable Town 1, Letchworth Town 3.

Histon 0, Cranfield Utd. 1.

Shefford Town 4, Peartree Old Boys 0.

Queen's Works 3, Blitchley B.B.O.B. 4.

Blechny I.M.S. 1, Waterloos 2.

Electrolux 2, Vauxhall Motors 1.

Houghton Rangers 1, Skefke Ath. 1.

Luton Utd. 1, Peatfield Ath. 1.

Marston Shelton 0, Stotfold 1.

Tickford Sports 5, Langford 4.

DIVISION II

Baldock Town 2, Bedford St. Cath. 3.

Britannia Works 1, Stewarts Works 3.

Linton Works 3, Marston Shelton 1.

Cranfield Utd. 1, Flitwick Ath. 1.

Elbow Abbey 7, AC-Dele 0.

Kent Ath. 1, Davis Ath. 2.

Peartree Old Boys 1, Rootes Sports 3.

Wootton Blue Cross 4, Bedford North End 0.

Hockey Results

Old Dunstablians 1, Rickmansworth 1.

Rickmansworth II 3, O.D.s II 0.

