

Recall Of Mitchell Likely

INJURY MAY PREVENT PLAN TO SWITCH DAVIES

Unexpectedly, negotiations for the transfer of Bert Mitchell, the Town's outside-left, did not come to anything before the deadline for this season's transfer deals on Tuesday, and he is likely to be restored to the League team for the home match with Bristol Rovers on Saturday.

He has been out of the side for a month, during which time he has scored in three consecutive matches for the Reserves, a factor which the Town cannot afford to ignore in their search for more finishing power.

Immediate reaction of Manager Dally Duncan after the floodlit match at Millwall on Monday, was that he would switch the Davies-Downie wing across to the right, to enable the former to take over his best position again and to make room for Mitchell.

This plan may be sabotaged by an injury to Davies, who pulled a calf muscle a couple of minutes before the end of the match on Monday, and must be rated a doubtful starter for this weekend.

However, there are hopes that constant treatment will enable him to turn out, and Davies himself thinks that he has a chance of doing so.

Significant Move For Last Night's Match

To move the wing pair together seemed a good idea, because Davies and Downie have struck up quite an understanding, but if Davies has to stand down, the latter will probably remain at inside-left.

Question of an outside-right deputy, should the need arise, has not been answered yet, but I understand that Michael Cullen is likely to be passed over in this instance.

It was significant that Joe Scott, who has been leading the line, was at outside-right for the Reserves against Fulham, last night, and he may be given another chance in the position he filled quite ably earlier in the season.

Pemberton's Chance Of First-Team Place

EVEN more significant was the fact that Jim Pemberton was at inside forward. He put up quite an impressive showing at inside-right against Millwall, and it is probable that he will be retained there for Saturday's match.

Doubtless this depended on last night's display, and, unless George Cummins did something extraordinary, Pemberton is the present favourite for the job.

The probable forward line-up is: Davies (or Scott), Pemberton, Turner, Downie, Mitchell.

However, before he makes his final decision to-morrow, the manager will consider reports of last night's match, which he did not see, because he was playing for Peter Doherty's team against Doncaster Rovers.

Turner's Chance At Centre-Forward

TURNER is being given a chance to show that he can settle down at centre-forward, and while he has not yet proved that he can, he at least has the merit of having scored two goals from the position in the 14 games he has had there.

The Town had actually played ten matches without getting a goal from the leader of their attack until Turner broke their spell after being switched there at Lincoln, and he secured another at the Den.

For the previous goal from centre-forward one had to go back to January 16, when Bernard Moore, who returned to his former club, Brighton, on Monday, did the trick at Swansea.

Defence Is Likely To Be Unchanged

IF Bob Morton and Sid Owen come through yesterday's match for the Combination XI in Amsterdam without injury, and the manager will not know this until they return to-morrow afternoon, the defence will remain unchanged.

Charlie Watkins, who has been resting a strained muscle, resumed training this week, and may have a try-out, probably in the Reserves at Portsmouth, where they will face quite a stern test in their quest for Combination championship honours.

Luton Greyhounds RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR SATURDAY

6.30-410yds: 244 Glen Star; 552 Old Dan; 560 Old Joe; 521 Skip II; 26 So Quiet; 244 Terry's Pat; Reserve: 50 Rockafella (Mar 11, to 24.85).

6.50-470yds: 111 Bill Badger; 51 Capricious; 541 Darius; 5 Dondra; 524 Kay; 313 Planter; Reserve: 542 Sporting Express.

7.10-410yds: Crawler (Mar 11, to 24.70); Mar 13, to 24.68; 331 East Cup; Havana (Mar 11, to 24.62); Mar 13, to 24.70; 66 Marble (Mar 13, to 24.79); 222 Mick's Son; 556 Vera's Pet; Reserve: Hat Catcher (Feb 24, to 24.59); Feb 27, to 24.53; Mar 6, to 24.50.

7.30-470yds: 3 Bottoms Up; 525 Kid-Kat; Paul's Fun (Mar 11, to 24.28); Mar 13, to 24.38; 456 Railway; 14 Something Short 342 Tidy Boy; Reserve: 211 Gay Lord.

7.50-470yds: 211 Hypon; 211 Lottie's Pet; 223 Our Sally; 11 Rock Hill; 231 Salter; 261 Viall.

8.10-410yds: 233 Aggie; Clover (Feb 25, to 24.46); Feb 27, to 24.37; 24.48; George (Mar 11, to 24.57); Mar 13, to 24.40; 263 Knicker; 19 Periwinkle; Whoosh (Feb 25, to 24.24); Mar 11, to 24.39; Reserve: 61 Jingle Bell.

8.30-470yds: 524 All White; 13 Fawn; Peter (Mar 11, to 24.64); 614 Maudie; 112 Mary's Son; 44; Red Head; 23 Roving Tiro; Reserve: 315 Arm In Arm.

8.50-410yds: 45 Candle Light; 113 Good Health; 112 Lone Eagle; 454 Phillip's Pet; 525 Sunlight; 4 Wendy; Reserve: 65 No Lady.

SELECTIONS

6.30: Skip II (Terry's Pat, Old Dan); 6.50: Bill Badger (Planter, Darius); 7.10: Mick's Son (East Cup, Havana); 7.30: Something Short (Kid-Kat, Bottoms Up); 7.50: Lottie's Pet (Hypon, Aggie); 8.10: Whoosh (Periwinkle, Maudie); 8.30: Roving Tiro (Arm In Arm); 8.50: Good Health (Lone Eagle, Wendy).

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.

The League: Division II

SATURDAY, 20th MARCH

LUTON TOWN

versus

BRISTOL ROVERS

Kick-off 3 p.m.

ADMISSION: Wing Stands 5/-; Enclosure (standing only) 3/6; Boys 2/-; Bobbers' Stand (covered) 2/-; Bobbers 1/3 (separate entrance); Terraces (not covered) 1/9; Boys 1/-.

Friendly FLOODLIGHT RETURN MATCH WEDNESDAY, 24th MARCH LUTON TOWN versus WATERFORD

Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 5/-; Wing Stands and Enclosure 3/6; Boys 1/3; Bobbers Stand 2/-; Boys 1/3; Terraces 1/9; Boys 1/-.

Luton 11

Northampton Men's Own 3

Luton 11

In December Luton beat the Northampton side, and they completed a "double" on Saturday.

Sports Chat By Chiltern

This was made more difficult for them by their failure to beat Bournemouth last Saturday.

Rovers Have Had Long Unbeaten Run

VISIT of Bristol Rovers will provide no easy task for the Town, for their opponents have gone since Christmas Day, when they lost 4-0 to Everton at Goodison Park, without meeting with defeat in a League match.

Since then, they have won three and drawn six of their nine Second Division games, and four of these have been played on opponents' grounds.

It is notable, though, that they have scored only eight goals during this spell and conceded five, so they owe a great deal to the soundness of their defence, which remains substantially the same as that which won promotion for them last season.

Handicap Caused By Bradford's Injury

INJURIES have been something of a bogy this season for this "no buy, no sell" club, and none has hit them harder than the serious one suffered by their centre-forward, Geoff Bradford, after he had made a flying start to the season with 15 goals, including four hat-tricks.

His mantle has descended on Paddy Hale, a youngster Manager Bert Tann signed from Clevedon, Somerset, as a centre-forward, converted into a centre-half and then switched back to the attack again when he had difficulty in filling the position left vacant by Bradford.

Since he came into the team in November Hale has scored in eight matches.

Petherbridge Has Been Out Of The Team

NOTABLE absentee recently has been Petherbridge, who played such a vital part in the Rovers' Cup win at Kenilworth-road in 1951.

He has been out because of injury, and although he was fit last week, John McIlvenny, who was obtained from Cheltenham Rovers, retained the outside-right berth.

However, Petherbridge will come in for consideration again this week, and if there is to be a change in the Rovers' team this is thought to be the most likely place for it.

However, after their narrow victory over Nottingham Forest last Saturday the likelihood is that there will be no alteration.

Attack Has Been Re-organised

SINCE the Town drew 3-3 at Eastville in October, the

Darts

TODDINGTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

DIVISION 'A'

Red Lion, Bidwell 24 17 4 3 28

Chequers 24 13 9 2 35

Dog and Badger 24 13 4 3 33

Flying Horse 24 14 5 5 33

Royal Oak, Barton 24 12 7 5 31

Houghton Sports 24 11 7 6 29

George 24 11 6 7 25

Fancott Arms 24 10 8 7 30

Annet 24 9 5 10 23

Carpenters Arms 25 8 11 22

White Hart 24 6 5 13 17

Swan, Flitwick 24 5 4 15 14

Swan, Tipton 25 5 4 16 14

Wheatshaf 25 4 4 17 12

Rising Sun 25 3 3 19 9

DIVISION 'B'

Red Lion, Toddington 26 19 5 2 43

Griffin 26 15 8 3 38

Couch and Horses 26 15 5 5 37

Royal Oak, Woburn 26 12 8 6 32

Crown 26 13 5 8 31

Swan 26 10 8 7 30

Compass 26 11 5 10 27

Jolly Coopers 26 11 4 11 26

French Horn 26 9 6 11 24

Five Bells 26 8 7 11 23

Nags Head 26 8 7 11 23

Adkings 26 8 5 13 21

New Inn 26 8 4 15 19

Red Lion, Eversholt 26 7 4 15 18

Social and Services 26 6 4 16 14

Green Man 26 4 3 19 11

Rugby

OLD BOYS' BOGY LAID AT LAST

Old Lutonians 0, Bedford Athletic 9

After many seasons of endeavour the Old Boys finally laid the "Athletic" bogey at Stockwood Park on Saturday when they triumphed by two tries and a penalty goal to nil.

Marking was keen on both sides and few orthodox moves developed. In such a game between two clubs of equal standing it was inevitable that the forwards should come into their own and a magnificent tussle developed.

Early on the Old Boys won on the defensive, despite the advantage of wind and slope and the Athletic had one glorious chance for a "dropped goal" but the ball was fumbled and cleared.

Adkins opened the scoring for the Old Boys when he kicked a long penalty goal from an awkward angle. Continuing in attack the home side managed to cross again when Thorpe went through at speed with the ball at his feet.

The second half produced similar rugby, played a great deal more vigorously. Despite some spells of hard defensive play the Old Boys' forwards, admirably led by Pat Heanue, gained the upper hand and it was appropriate that Heanue should be the one to score following some good work all round.

LUTON MAINTAIN WINNING WAYS

Northampton Men's Own 3

Luton 11

In December Luton beat the Northampton side, and they completed a "double" on Saturday.

Rovers' attack has undergone a drastic reorganisation, and only outside-left Watling was still occupying the same position last Saturday.

Paddy Leonard, inside-right on the first occasion, has been moved over to the opposite flank to make room for All Biggs, a young local who is described as a real "find."

Alterations in defence are that Radford, who is in the running for a Welsh cap, has displaced Anderson in goal, and that Fox, who missed the first meeting because of injury, has replaced Watkins at left-back.

Rovers' team last Saturday was: Radford; Bamford, Fox; Pitt, Warren, Sampson; McIlvenny, Biggs, Hale, Leonard, Watling.

League Calls Cause Vauxhall Changes

BECAUSE O'Neill and Brandham are required for duty for the Spartan League against the Wiltshire League at Warminster on Saturday, Vauxhall Motors have to make two changes in their team.

They are due to visit Marlow, whom they beat 4-0 at Luton last week and will have Miller at half and Morgan, who has had lengthy spells in the team this season, takes over at inside-left.

Team: D. Johnston; J. Burgess, K. Sturtin; V. Miller, J. Humphrey, D. Soper; T. Dolan, G. Todd, W. Lawrence, A. Morgan, E. James.

New Opponents Again For Old Lutonians

MORE new opponents face Old Lutonians R.F.C. on Saturday when they will be entertaining for the first time Barking Park Modern Old Boys, who come with a reputation for good rugby and an impressive record.

Old Lutonians, who had a very good victory last week, should be confident and they will be strongly represented by: Yorkie; Smith, Thorpe, Edmonds, Thurlow; Robinson, Bracey; Howe, Knapp, Shepherd, Heanue, Young, Cato, Fensome, Kelly, Reserve, Packwood.

Luton Unchanged At Leighton Buzzard

WITH an unchanged team, Luton R.F.C. travel to meet Leighton Buzzard on Saturday.

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

Interesting test of strength will be at Stockwood Park, where the "A" XV, captained by J. Evans, will meet the Extra "A", captained by M. Blamire, in what is likely to be a "needle" match.

S. Midlands League BIG CHANCE FOR VAUXHALL

Have Taken Lead In First Division

South Midlands League spotlight is focused on Vauxhall Motors, who have jumped to the top of Division I and who stand a good chance of promotion to the Premier Division.

To take over the leadership this young Motors' team—average age is below 20—in the past fortnight have beaten Electrolux and Marston Shelton, who, until last Saturday, occupied first and second places.

Vauxhall's lead is only slender—they have 34 points from 23 games, while Marston Shelton have 33 from 22 matches but if the Luton team can maintain their recent brilliant form they could quite easily stay at the top.

Another Luton team having a fine season are Davis Athletic, leaders in Division II.

They collected two more points when they beat Lynton Works 2-1 and now they need only a point per game from their remaining six matches to be sure of promotion.

Remarkable feature of their career this season is that after 24 games they are still unbeaten.

Premier Division leaders, Baldock, can say goodbye to any championship hopes. Their recent slump was almost certainly cost them the title, for now they are only two points in front of Sheffield Town, who have five games in hand.

Baldock lost to Peartree O.B. on Saturday and the Welwyn side were only three places from the bottom of the table.

PREMIER DIVISION Bedford Corinthians 3, Dunstable T. 2; Cranfield Utd. 2, AC-Delco 1; Kent's Ath. 1, Leckworth Town 3; Peartree Old Boys 2, Baldock Town 1; Potton Utd. 3, Sheffield Town 4; Wootton Blue Cross 5, Arlesey Town 3.

DIVISION I Houghton Rangers 6, Arlesey Town 1; Banfield B.O.B. 4, Electrolux 1; Leighton Utd. 2, Eaton Bray Utd. 3; Leighton Utd. 3, Queen's Works 3; Skeby Ath. 4, Blechley L.M.S. 0; Stotfold 5, Tickford Sports 0.

Vauxhall Motors 2, Marston Shelton 0; Watlington 6, Percival Ath. 2; AC-Delco 2, Cranfield Utd. 1; AC-Delco 2, Britannia Works 1; Lynton Works 0, Davis Ath. 2; Bedford North End 2, Elstow Abbey 5; Flitwick Ath. 2, Kent's Ath. 2; Marston Shelton 3, Peartree Old Boys 2; Rother Sports 3, Bedford St. Cath. 2.

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Hockey

CHANCES MISSED

Old Dunstables 1, Stevenage 1

Although they had more of the play, Old Dunstables failed to accept their chances and, instead of a convincing win, had to content themselves with a draw.

The Old Boys' goal came from WATSON forwards, but the on-terms, again after BROWN, their centre-half, had put through his own goal.

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