

CUMMINS IS LIKELY TO RETURN

IN BRILLIANT FORM FOR THE RESERVES

Town Are Still Facing The Same Old Problem

By Chiltern

Immediately after the finish of another disappointing forward display by the Town, Manager Dally Duncan said: "George Cummins must come back," and that can be expected to be for the floodlit match with Watford to-morrow evening.

This statement was made without the knowledge that the Eire International had been the best player on the field for the Reserves at Portsmouth and his recall is likely to be the only change which the Town will make for this local "derby."

If he were 100 per cent fit after suffering that pulled muscle injury in training, Bert Mitchell would be back at outside-left but, yesterday, this was regarded as very doubtful and the inclination was to give him this week to recover fully in the hope that he will be able to play at Blackburn on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Jimmy Adam is likely to be given another outing which is just as well because the main thing he lacks at the moment is experience and he can only gain this by playing in good-class company.

Back In Which Inside Forward Position?

POINT arising from the recall of Cummins is in which inside-forward position he will appear, for, although he is a natural left-footed player, he likes inside-right, but the manager has at the back of his mind the idea of keeping the Davies-Downie partnership together, though this was not the case on Saturday.

Reason for this was that Downie had teamed up with Adam successfully in the Reserves, and the manager was anxious to give the young winger every chance on what was only his second appearance in the League team.

Watford Have Had A Successful Team

NO serious injuries were reported afterwards, so that the defence will remain unchanged and the player to stand down will be Jim Pemberton, whose selection for inside-right could only have been expected to be a short-term policy anyway.

Watford, under the management of Len Goulden, former

West Ham and Chelsea star, have had a most successful season, although their aim of Second Division football next season is unlikely to be realised after two consecutive away defeats.

A run of six consecutive victories put them in with a chance a few weeks back, and although hope has not gone for them entirely, it looks rather a forlorn affair now.

Went In For Floodlit Games In A Big Way

WATFORD are one of the clubs who have gone in for floodlit football in a big way and, judging by the size of the gates they have drawn, they have made it pay.

When the Town paid a visit to Vicarage-road in October there was a gate of 12,200, and whether the Town draw an attendance of anything approaching these proportions probably depends on the weather as much as anything else, though it is thought that Watford will be bringing quite a large following.

Yesterday, because of injuries, Watford were not at all certain about the probable constitution of their team.

Injuries Have Caused Team Doubts

FORMER Birmingham City and Chelsea left-half, Frank Mitchell, missed last Saturday's match at Aldershot because of a pulled muscle and it is doubtful whether he will be able to return.

Another absentee at Aldershot was inside-right Eddie Smith, who may be able to return, but their situation is somewhat complicated by the fact that Roy Brown, ex-Stoke City centre-forward, received concussion on Saturday, and a decision about him is awaited.



Len Goulden and Jimmy Bowie, two of the men responsible for Watford's place in the Third Division limelight.



Attraction for the Town fans is football and he is far more suited to a role in defence. Jimmy Bowie who gained fame with Chelsea, and he now has a new wing partner in Adams, formerly of Spurs and Norwich City, replacing the injured Paton.

Should Not Have Dropped A Point

AND so, somewhat belatedly, we turn to consideration of the match with Bristol Rovers, which is another that must go into the realms of those that should have been won with something to spare.

Victory could have been made reasonably certain in the first half when the Town were by far the superior team and tested the solid Rovers' defence to the full.

However, there was that old failing of lack of punch in the finishing, though Downie and Turner could reasonably consider themselves unfortunate with shots that struck the woodwork.

Downie's Goal Seemed Forerunner Of Others

WHEN Downie secured an "in-off" goal in the 32nd minute—the ball was deflected off its original course by Bamford's attempt to kick clear—the Town well deserved to be ahead, and there seemed a chance that they would steer themselves to a more clear-cut success than has been the case for some weeks.

Seldom did there seem a real threat from the Rovers' forwards, who lacked craft at inside forward and pinned their faith mainly on moving the ball about and trying to work openings for the bustling Hale.

Penalty Brought Rovers' Equaliser

ANOTHER goal would have put the Town in a very strong position, but it just did not come, and again they approached the uneasy closing stages when points are often snatched, with the most slender of leads.

When the equaliser did come, it was in the most unexpected fashion, for Owen, needlessly in the view of most supporters handled from a corner, and Pitt scored from the penalty kick.

Explanation of this offence given afterwards was that Owen was all set to head away the corner when the ball was flicked by Watling and, knowing that Hale was lying handy, Owen made one of those involuntary split-second moves that are always difficult to explain afterwards.

Anxiety About Attack Still Remains

BIGGEST lesson that arose from this match is that the Town's forward problems are still a long way from being over and although there was sufficient neat approach work in the first half to bring hope that something tangible had been achieved, it did not last and it did not bring results in the shape of goals.

Pemberton is one of the best and most willing club-men the Town have, but even his best friends would scarcely consider him as an inside-forward of the calibre to succeed in Second Divi.

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.

Friendly
FLOODLIGHT
RETURN MATCH
TO-MORROW (WEDNESDAY)
LUTON TOWN

versus

WATFORD

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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

flank, but he tried to be direct when he got it, though after the interval he rather overdid the move of cutting across the field.

Much Strength In The Town Defence

IF the forwards had been anything like as successful and consistent as the defence had been over the last weeks, the promotion chance would have been there and they were a most solid combination in this match.

Owen probably had the toughest task in keeping tabs on the burly Hale, who did not hesitate to use his weight, but he soon tamed him and there were only odd moments when danger threatened down the middle.

The strong, quick tackling of Morton and Shanks was largely responsible for the Rovers' inside forwards being in such a quiet mood and it was not until after they had equalised, that we really saw a lot of the Rovers' forwards as a line.

Jones Did Not Damage His "Cap" Chances

WATCHED by Welsh F.A. selector Jones did nothing to damage his claims for a cap, and might well have enhanced them, for he gained the mastery over Watling, and with Aherne, sound as ever, and kicking beautifully, with either foot, there was not a great deal of danger from the right.

Several times, the offside trap was operated cleverly and successfully, but the Town did not make

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 1

Downie

BRISTOL ROVERS 1

Pitt (penalty)

LUTON TOWN: Streten;

Jones, Aherne; Morton,

Owen, Shanks; Davies, Pemberton, Turner, Downie, Adam.

BRISTOL ROVERS: Rad-

ford; Bamford, Fox; Pitt,

Warren, Sampson; Mc-

Ilvenny, Biggs, Hale, Leonard, Watling.

Referee: P. Martin, Cob-

ham.

Attendance: 12,915.

the mistake of over-doing it.

For Streten, this was not a very testing afternoon and what came his way, he got through without difficulty.

Both teams were handicapped by the conditions which, after heavy rain were most treacherous, but this cannot explain away the fact that the Town forwards still remain goal-shy.

Weakened Reserves Deserved Their Point

WITH a weakened team because of injuries, the Reserves did extremely well to take a point from Portsmouth and, playing good football at times, they were full value for it and might have snatched victory.

Outstanding work by Cummins made the forwards quite a live force, with MacEwan, who improves with every match, always raiding. Scott had a recurrence of groin muscle trouble which cut down his effectiveness in the second half and Cullen was the better winger.

Chiltern's Forecasts

F.A. CUP SEMI-FINALS

West Brom v Port Vale

Preston N.E. v Sheffield Wed.

DIVISION I

Arsenal v Manchester Utd.

Cardiff C. v Newcastle Utd.

Chelsea v Tottenham H.

Huddersfield T. Charlton Ath.

Portsmouth v Bolton W.

Sheffield Utd. v Burnley

Wolves v Middlesbrough

DIVISION II

Blackburn R. v Luton T.

Brentford v Swansea T.

Bristol R. v Rotherham Utd.

Bury v Birmingham C.

Derby Co. v Plymouth A.

Doncaster R. v Nottm Forest

Everton v West Ham

Hull C. v Fulham

Lincoln C. v Leicester C.

Notts Co. v Stoke C.

Oldham Ath. v Leeds Utd.

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v Walsall

Brighton v Southampton

Coventry C. v Swindon T.

Gillingham v Aldershot

Ipswich T. v Shrewsbury

Leyton O. v Newport Co.

Millwall v Exeter C.

Northampton T. v Bristol C.

Reading v Norwich C.

Southend Utd. v Q.P.R.

Torquay Utd. v Crystal Palace

Watford v Colchester Utd.

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Barnsley v Stockport Co.

Bradford v Grimsby T.

Chester v Halifax T.

Crewe Alex. v Carlisle Utd.

Darlington v Rochdale

Gateshead v Mansfield T.

Hartlepool Utd. v Wrexham

Scunthorpe Utd. v Bradford C.

Southport v Tranmere R.

Workington v Barrow

York C. v Chesterfield

SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL

Motherwell v Celtic

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Falkirk v Rangers

Dundee v St. Mirren

Hamilton v Clyde

Hibernian v Airdrieonians

Partick T. v East Fife

Raith R. v Aberdeen

DIVISION "B"

Arbroath v Cowdenbeath

Dunfermline v Dundee Utd.

Morton v Ayr Utd.

St. Johnstone v Dumbarton

Third Lanark v Stenhousemuir

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Huddersfield

Wolves, Bristol Rovers, Everton

Bournemouth, Gillingham, Ips-

wich, Watford, Barnsley, Work-

ington.

FOUR AWAY: Burnley, Leeds

Bradford C., Chesterfield.

THREE DRAWS: Arsenal v

Manchester Utd.; Doncaster v

Nottm Forest; Crewe v Carlisle



Builders need lots of it
Landlords pull pots of it
Good wholesome beer



Some men walk dogs for it
Some men saw logs for it
Some men face fogs for it

Good wholesome beer

Let's have one at The Local