

OWED ALL TO DEFENCE AGAIN

THREW BACK MUCH HEAVY PRESSURE

Town Have Now Gained 10 Points Out Of 14

By Chiltern

There will be no medals for the Town's first team this season, but it would not be out of place if a special set were to be struck for the defence for their dogged work during the last seven matches.

Almost unnoticed because of deficiencies in the front line, the Town have been through a revival that has brought them 10 points out of the last 14 — due almost completely to the gallant way in which the defence has tackled the job, for in these seven matches they have conceded only six goals.

Meanwhile, the forwards have laboriously collected a meagre nine goals during the same period and the all too familiar pattern was again discernible at Griffin Park on Saturday, with the defence continually throwing back the furious raids of the home forwards.

This was the match Brentford feared more than any of those remaining on their list and their failure could be the means of landing them in the Third Division for next season.

They looked what they are—a hard-fighting team desperately trying to stave off the relegation bogey, and their danger was reflected in their play.

Heavy Raids Were Lacking Method

FOR all the pressure they enjoyed and the over-work they brought for the Town defenders, there was little order or cohesion about their raids even though at times in the second half, all the players, with the exception of Newton, were congregated in the Town's half of the field.

Perhaps they tried too hard for those invaluable goals and, in large measure, over-eagerness proved to be their downfall.

Defenders tried to become forwards and although the pressure was often heavy it lacked method and the goals did not come because of some weak shooting and by some brilliant saves by Streten, who was the villain of the piece so far as Brentford were concerned.

Claimed "Offside" When Town Scored

"LUCKY Luton," the home fans were saying afterwards, and there was also a good deal of talk about the legitimacy of the goal the Town obtained as the result of one of the best movements in the match.

What happened was that

FOR THE RECORDS

BRENTFORD 0

LUTON TOWN 1

Turner

BRENTFORD: Newton; Bragg, Latimer; Bristow, Dargie, Coote; Robertson, Gazzard, Dare, Rainford, Dudley.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Downie, Turner, Cummins, Mitchell.

Referee: W. Ling, Stapleford. Attendance: 14,200.

ball was always difficult to control.

When the Town attack did begin to move, which was none too often, they always looked the more constructive, and more frequent movements of the calibre of the one that brought the only goal and which Cummins began, might have had this stalwart Brentford defence in real trouble.

Another factor that operated against them was that with the home side so much on the attack the Town forwards tended to be caught offside too often.

Inside Men Were Caught In Possession

IN the main, though, the hard, quick tackling was too much for the Town inside forwards and many an attack was nipped in the bud prematurely because they were caught in possession before they could use the ball.

Cummins just is not producing anything like the form of which he is capable, and in a rather poor display his use of the ball was again faulty.

Both inside men are using the back pass too often when they run into trouble and this frequently had the effect of putting the men behind them in trouble, too.

Much of what constructive work there was came from Downie, who was by no means consistent, though and Turner could truthfully claim that the measure of support that came his way was far from adequate.

Wingers Did Not See Much Of The Ball

NOR did the wingers see a deal of the ball, which was a pity, because both looked as if they might cause trouble.

Davies was slightly the more prominent because he had more prompting, but there were long spells when the ball did not come Mitchell's way, with the result that he got out of position wandering to look for it.

Turner has scored in each of the last two matches, but it will require more than that to persuade me that he is the best answer to this problem, though to rate him on this showing in a most uneven Town forward display would be nothing less than harsh for a centre-forward does need openings created for him, and these were few and far between.

England Selector Watched Owen

AN England selector was present to run the rule over Owen before the final selection is made of the England teams for the Continental tour next month and, after a somewhat uncertain start, Owen played himself into top form, and, from Town officials, I understand that the selector's reaction was favourable.

Owen took some little time to get the measure of the dashing, hard-fighting Dare who even got some high balls early on when he was leaping a quite prodigious height for a "little 'un."

Dare, too, was inclined to lie deep which meant that Owen had some way to go but, slowly, but surely, he took a complete grip, and Dare went the way of most opposing centre-forwards — into oblivion.

Streten In England Form, Too

IT was, perhaps, Owen more than anybody except Streten who kept the Town in front during the hectic second half when Brentford simply threw in everything in an attempt to steam-roller their way to a point.

Seldom could they pass the centre-half, who defended brilliantly, and another they could not pass was Streten, giving one of his all-action scintillating displays and reducing the home forwards to near despair by his sometimes almost uncanny anticipation.

So accomplished was his display that the selector must have wondered whether England did not make a mistake when they

discarded Streten so soon after his only International appearance.

Solid Display By Defence As A Whole

FROM the rest of the defence there was a solid, no-quarter display, in which team-work and good covering played a notable part.

Both Morton and Shanks worked tremendously hard, as they had to, with the ball coming back to them continually, and they were generally too much for the home inside forwards, though Gazzard was dangerous now and again.

Maybe their use of the ball was not so immaculate as it might have been, but, for the most part, it was purely a defensive role that they played, and there was little opportunity for them to give full rein to their attacking powers.

Switches Brought No Result

IN an attempt to find a way past the Town defence, Brentford switched both wing partnerships shortly before half-time and retained this formation until the end, but it made no difference, and Jones and Aherne found little difficulty in keeping the upper hand whether it was Dudley or Robertson to whom they were opposed.

The tricks played by the ball sometimes in flight caused Aherne to make some mis-kicks early on, but otherwise his kicking was completely sure, as was that of Jones, and both came through with colours flying, as indeed did the whole defence from as hard a 90 minutes as they will want to face.

Strong Team Sent To Biggleswade

IN view of the heavy programme facing them this week-end, the Town did Biggleswade proud last night by sending a team containing seven regular League players.

Both wing-halves were rested—Morton in view of the fact that he is playing at Northampton to-night, and Shanks to avoid aggravating the muscle that still troubles him.

McGuffie was at right-half, and Manager Dally Duncan took the chance to experiment with Downie at left-half. Two or three times recently Downie has asked for an opportunity in the middle line.

In at centre-forward went MacEwan along with reserve team colleagues Groves and Adam, both Cummins and Mitchell being rested, and Turner resumed his right-wing partnership with Davies.

Reserves' Match Had Everything

THERE have been many entertaining reserve games at Kenilworth-road this season, but nothing to compare with Saturday's match with Arsenal Reserves.

Few of the spectators will forget it in a hurry, for it was one of those games that "had everything."

Luton won 5-3 and there was no doubt about their superiority, yet just after the interval not many people present thought that Luton would win by a two-goals margin.

Doubtful Goal Gave Arsenal The Lead

IN fact, then, it looked as if Arsenal were going to deserve



TONY GREGORY,

young Vauxhall player, who scored England's only goal against Hungary in a Group "D" match in the Youths' International soccer tournament at Dusseldorf on Sunday. England lost 3-1.

the tag "lucky," for after being two goals down in nine minutes they equalised before the game was 20 minutes old.

Then, a few minutes before the interval, they were allowed to get away with a very doubtful goal when Walsh, the scorer, appeared to be in an offside position.

Oakes and Wilkinson had scored for Arsenal earlier, and these goals nullified Luton efforts by MacEwan and Groves.

MacEwan On The Mark With Three

ARSENAL tried hard to hang on to their lead, but midway through the second half MacEwan popped up again and scored a good goal to put Luton on terms.

This was followed by a magnificent effort by Pemberton, who sent the ball screaming into the net from 25 yards.

MacEwan completed the scoring with a fine volleyed shot. The South African was perhaps the best of a forward line that played attractive, go-ahead football, but Groves and Allen were also great workers, with the former again impressing with his ball control.

Need Fear No One On This Form

ON the wings, Cullen and Adam were both fighters, and they completed an attack that did not have a weak link.

The defence was usually in command of the situation except for the period immediately before and after the interval, when Arsenal threatened to get on top.

Hawks did well against Walsh, although the right-winger posed a few threats in the first half, and McGuffie, Hall and Pemberton formed a strong middle line.

In goal, Williams, deputising for the injured Baynham, did all that could be expected of him, and Dunne did well, although some of his clearances were a little wild.

This victory keeps Luton at the top of the Football Combination (Division I) table, and on this form they need fear no team in the competition.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

Bolton W. v Blackpool
Burnley v Huddersfield T.
Charlton Ath. v Aston Villa
Liverpool v Cardiff C.
Manchester Utd. v Portsmouth
Middlesbrough v Sunderland
Newcastle Utd. v Arsenal
Preston N.E. v Chelsea
Sheffield Wed. v Wolves
Tottenham H. v Sheffield Utd.
West Brom v Manchester C.

DIVISION II

Birmingham C. v Doncaster R.
Fulham v Everton
Leeds Utd. v Bury
Leicester C. v Notts Co.
Luton T. v Derby Co.
Nottm Forest v Blackburn R.
Plymouth A. v Brentford
Rotherham Utd. v Lincoln C.
Stoke C. v Hull C.
Swansea T. v Bristol R.
West Ham v Oldham Ath.

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v Southend Utd.
Bristol C. v Reading
Colchester Utd. v Millwall
Crystal Palace v Leyton O.
Exeter C. v Northampton T.
Newport C. v Gillingham
Norwich C. v Coventry C.
Q.P.R. v Bournemouth
Shrewsbury T. v Torquay Utd.
Swindon T. v Brighton
Southampton v Ipswich T.
Walsall v Watford

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v Southport
Barrow v Darlington
Bradford C. v Hartlepool Utd.
Carlisle Utd. v York C.
Chesterfield v Gateshead
Grimsby T. v Chester
Halifax T. v Scunthorpe Utd.
Mansfield T. v Barnsley
Rochdale v Port Vale
Stockport Co. v Crewe Alex.
Tranmere R. v Workington
Wrexham v Bradford

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Clyde v Hearts
Dundee v Partick T.
Hibernian v Celtic
Queen of South v Hamilton
Rangers v Aberdeen

DIVISION "B"

Dumbarton v St. Johnstone
Kilmarnock v Third Lanark
Queen's Park v Morton

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Manchester Utd.
Tottenham, West Brom, Leeds
Leicester, West Ham, Norwich
Bristol C., Bradford C., Grimsby

FOUR AWAY: Wolves, Bristol, Watford, Port Vale.

THREE DRAWS: Middlesbrough v Sunderland; Fulham v Everton; Southampton v Ipswich

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