

ATTACK CHANGES A POSSIBILITY

MANAGER AWAITS A VERDICT ON ROY DAVIES

But He Is Still Regarded As A Doubtful Starter

[By Chiltern]

There is the possibility of changes in the Town's forward line for the match at Lincoln to-morrow night and Manager Dally Duncan was turning the problem over in his mind yesterday.

"I am not satisfied with the way in which the forwards are playing and there may be alterations, but I will not decide until to-morrow," he told me.

One reason for the delay is to see if there is any chance of Roy Davies being able to return to outside-right and there will be a decision on that later this morning.

Davies, who has missed the last three matches, was doing some training yesterday and feels no trouble when he runs, but does when he kicks the ball and he must be regarded as very doubtful. Joe Scott was seeing a specialist yesterday about his muscle injury, but better news was that John Groves has recovered from the concussion he received at Watford with the Reserves and was training yesterday.

The manager would not elaborate on the positions where he thinks an alteration may be made, but the defence will remain the same and there were no injuries after Saturday's match with Birmingham.

Lincoln Wait, But Changes Unlikely

WITH a similar record to that of the Town—six points out of 10—though they have lost one match at home, Lincoln are reasonably satisfied with the way things have gone for them so far and there is unlikely to be much in the way of change in their team for to-morrow.

However, Manager Bill Anderson told me yesterday that he was waiting to see his Reserves play

last night before making a final decision on the line-up.

This varies little from last season, though there have been some alterations in defence, and the only newcomer is Downie from Bradford, in goal.

Outside-Right Became A Left-Back

IN partnership at full-back are two players who were regarded as reserves when the season began, but they have now displaced the regular pair, Graham and Green.

Those in possession are Dykes, a local, and Troops, whose efficiency as a left-back was discovered by accident.

Staging a private trial towards the end of last season, Bill Anderson found that he had a surfeit of players for the outside-right position, where Troops usually appeared.

On the spur of the moment, he was put in at left-back, and so well did he show up that he has never appeared anywhere else since.

Although there have been big bids for Graver, the former Newcastle centre-forward, he still remains at Sincil Bank.

Have Yet To Lose At Sincil Bank

POSSIBLY, it is from him that the Town can look for most threat to-morrow night, but they should go into this match with confidence, for they have never been beaten by Lincoln yet and the spacious Lincoln playing pitch, one of the best in the country, usually suits the Town's style.

From their three previous visits there, they have returned with a 2-1 victory and draws at 4-4 and 1-1 and, if they are at their best, they should not go unrewarded to-morrow.

Said Bill Anderson, "We are expecting a harder game than the one we had against the Forest."

Team in that match was: Downie; Dykes, Troops; Wright, Emery, Owen (R.); Munro, Garvie, Graver, Birch, Finch.

Defences On Top And Play Was Dull

WHEN two strong defences take a real grip on a couple of forward lines who do not show a lot of shooting power, anyway, the result is the dull sort of match we saw at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

Not only was play much below standard, but the goal that decided the destination of both points was much in character with the rest of the play.

Birmingham claimed that Adam had used his hand when the ball bounced off him into the net from a centre by Morton, but the referee did not agree, though I understand that there was some backing for the Birmingham appeal among the fans behind that goal.

Adam himself said the ball struck him on the chest and, anyway, this fluky goal gave the Town a couple of valuable points.

Better Start Than In Recent Seasons

WITHOUT being altogether impressive, the Town have won all three home games which has added up to a rather better start than has been the case in the last season or two, but all is not well with the attack yet.

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 1

Adam

BIRMINGHAM CITY .. 0

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Mitchell, Turner, Pye, Cummins, Adam.

BIRMINGHAM CITY: Merrick; Green, Allen; Boyd, Smith, Warhurst; Astall, Kinsey, Lane, Murphy, Govan.

Referee: A. E. Ellis, Halifax.

Attendance: 16,347.

Teething troubles are still there and it is a fact that better football was being played when the new style was being tried, but four points have come their way since they reverted to their former tactics.

Results count in football, but there was general dissatisfaction about the game as a whole on Saturday, and both forward lines were weak.

The Town had in Pye a player who showed himself to be the most constructive forward on the field when he was in possession of the ball, but he suffered, not only from lack of support but from the close shadowing of young Smith, a most able centre-half.

Wingers Did Not Show Their Bury Form

EVEN so, it was Pye who caused most threat to the Birmingham defence and from whom most of the moves developed.

Curiously enough, after the bright display of Mitchell and Adam against Bury, when the Town thought they had found the answer to their need for two raiding wingers, there was little sparkle from either and Mitchell had a particularly lean time.

Early in the second half, they were switched, but this brought no noticeable improvement and it was not until Adam went back for a second spell on the left wing that he reached anything resembling the form he has been showing in other matches.

Cummins had a very patchy sort of match in which his best work was done during the first half when he provided Merrick with one of his few difficult tasks with a shot that the England goalkeeper did well to save.

Too Many Inaccurate Passes By Inside Men

BEFORE the interval there were flashes of combination between the left-wing pair, but little was seen of the inside-left afterwards.

From both inside forwards came far too high a percentage of inaccurate passes which led to moves breaking down time and again just when it seemed that something better had been achieved.

Without doing anything of a spectacular nature, Turner worked hard in a more defensive role than he usually occupies, and he did a lot less shooting than is normally the case.

In fact, there was not a great deal of shooting from the line as a whole, though Pye was most unlucky with a drive that struck the crossbar.

Birmingham A Hard Nut To Crack

AS is always the case, since they have based their tactics for a number of years on soundness in defence, Birmingham were a hard nut to crack and the strength and steadiness of their tackling was one of the reasons why the Town attack was thrown so badly out of gear.

By comparison the Town defence suffered not at all, for they left few loopholes, and in Owen they had a fine centre-half who was high in the list of qualifiers for the title of the man of the match.

Hardly ever was there the slightest sign of faltering from him and his strength meant that there was no hope of a path down the middle for Birmingham, and Lane only looked as if he might become troublesome when he moved out to the wing.

Full-Backs Held The Wingers Well

NOR could there be any complaint about the covering of the defence as a whole, with the full-backs cutting down the effectiveness of two wingers who could have been lively and dangerous had they been given any scope.

If anything, Dunne secured a greater mastery over Govan than Aherne did over Astall, and he

had, perhaps, his best game this season.

That Murphy, regarded as the spearhead of the visiting attack, should be so little seen and should have so few shots at goal is a tribute to the effectiveness of Morton and his close marking, and Shanks did well against Kinsey, particularly in the way he followed him when the inside-right switched about in an effort to find an open space.

Streten Compared Well With Merrick

SOME of the Birmingham approach work was neat enough and a bit more impressive than much of that produced by the Town, but in the main it took too long to develop because there was much sideways passing, and this was where the Town defenders stepped in most decisively.

Nearest Birmingham came to scoring was when Kinsey struck a post after Lane had switched the ball quickly to him from the left wing, but otherwise Streten, full of confidence, compared well with his rival in the other goal.

Only part of Streten's game which was not quite up to scratch was in his use of the ball, and here he was not quite so accurate as usual.

Injury Cost Reserves The Game At Watford

MISFORTUNE came the way of the Town Reserves at Watford on Saturday when, shortly after the start of the second half, Groves had to leave the field suffering from concussion, following a collision, and was unable to return.

He was injured in the movement that brought the Town their second goal, cleverly obtained by MacEwan, and which put them ahead at 2-1.

Watford equalised midway through the half and then scored twice in the last five minutes to make the final score 4-2 in their favour. Luton's other goal had been secured by Watkins from a free kick.

So well were the Town playing before they were reduced to 10 players that it is fair to assume that they would have gone on to clinch a victory.

Played Well Until Mishap Occurred

FROM them came some very good football, in which Groves was playing a leading role, and there was an excellent response from the remaining members of the front line, in which Cullen and Taylor were two dangerous wingers, and MacEwan led the line in dashing fashion.

Promotion of Dallas to the centre-half position was fully justified by the showing he gave, and, with Watkins showing a considerable improvement and McGuffie at his best, there was a deal of strength in the middle line.

Both Pemberton and Hawkes had some difficulty in coping with Watford's lively wingers, but the defence as a whole was adequate, and Baynam had no chance with any of the shots that beat him.

Town Won With A Few Minutes In Hand

WITH five minutes and five wickets to spare, the Town Sunday XI beat Vauxhall Motors after having been set 169 to win.

Some steady batting and a fine unbeaten half-century by Derek Soper enabled Vauxhall to declare at the very respectable total of 168 for 9, though they were always troubled by the bowling of Terry Matthews, who took 4 for 33 in 19.2 overs.

Despite the fact that, of the first three batsmen, both Doug. Bull and Ken Brazier failed to reach double figures, the Town sent up the hundred in 68 minutes, thanks to Frank Winstanley and to Charlie Warman, who was in for only 17 minutes for his 32.

Then came a confident 40 by John Oliver and, meanwhile, Winstanley had passed the half-century mark.

Both the Town's games with Oxford City on Saturday were called off because of the heavy rain during the night and morning.

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.

TO-MORROW, WEDNESDAY
Combination Cup

LUTON RESERVES
versus
BIRMINGHAM CITY
RESERVES

Kick-off 6 p.m.

Admission: Centre Stand (Season Tickets only); Wing Stand and Enclosure 1/6; Boys 1/-; Bobbers' Stand 1/3; Boys 10d.; Terraces (not covered) 1/-; Boys 9d.

THIS
IS 3



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