

BIRMINGHAM KEEN TO SIGN PYE

BEST HOME DISPLAY TOOK TOWN TO TOP Dally Duncan Watched Rotherham Last Night

By Chiltern

There was no further development yesterday in the projected move of Jesse Pye. Birmingham, whose manager, Bob Brocklebank, was at Kenilworth-road on Saturday to discuss details with Town officials, would seem to be favourites for the player's signature.

He was told the figure at which the Town are prepared to do a deal, had a talk with the player about the possibility of a move to St. Andrew's and, presumably, is reporting back to his Board on the situation.

Yesterday, there had been a further approach from Birmingham who, however, are eager to sign Pye who has been putting things over during the week-end.

Yesterday, he was back in training after his lay-off through injury and he should be able to resume playing this week-end.

Two or three other clubs are interested in Pye's future, but personal are not numbered among them, nor have there been any approaches from several other clubs who have been named in the official Press.

The Town are content to await developments for, after all, they are sellers only by force of circumstances, but the position seems to be that Pye might well leave before the end of this week.

Manager Watched Rotherham Last Night

On point of fact, the Town could do very well with his services on Saturday when they face a critical match in paying a visit to Rotherham United, who have made their customary flying start to the season, though they slipped up badly on Saturday.

They were at Bury last night and Manager Dally Duncan made the trip north to run the rule over them with the importance of the forthcoming encounter firmly in his mind.

The practice of having a preview of future opposition has paid off handsomely in the past and the Town are firm believers in it because they base their tactical plan to suit what they think will be the needs of the situation.

Watkins's Success At Inside-Left

CRUCIAL that what was regarded as a makeshift forward line and one that took

more thinking about before final selection than at any previous time this season, should prove so successful as the one the Town fielded against Stoke on Saturday.

Charlie Watkins, almost a last-minute choice for the inside-left position where he was so successful during the season before last, settled down to exert a great influence on the line by the intelligent way in which he held the ball and made use of it.

He filled the bill so well that the Town certainly have not to look any further for the solution to this particular problem.

Best Home Display So Far This Season

THIS was the most striking home display we have seen from a Luton forward line this season and the victory might well have been more convincing, for Stoke's normally safe defence was frequently pulled out of position by the speed with which the Town mounted their attacks.

There was a period at the start when the Town attack took time to settle down, but once they took the lead through Watkins, there was never the slightest doubt about the eventual outcome.

It was an extremely well worked goal in which Adam, though he did not touch the ball, had a big hand, for his feint foxed Robertson who might well have covered the ball had his attention not been distracted.

Adam Has Gained Much Confidence

ADAM himself obtained the second goal with an opportunistic effort, and his positional play will get him a crop of goals this season.

This young player has gained

a remarkable degree of confidence since the season began, and he promises to be an even more prolific scorer than the previous occupant of the position, Bert Mitchell.

He has all Mitchell's goal sense and, in addition, shows immaculate footwork and the ability to beat an opponent by sheer craft and speed.

His partnership with Watkins was the most successful the Town have had on the left wing this season, and there was always threat from this quarter.

Some Concern About The Leadership

ONLY cause for disturbance at the moment is that the centre-forward position is scarcely being adequately filled.

It is perhaps asking a lot of MacEwan, in view of his comparative inexperience, to provide the answer here, but with Pye's departure apparently imminent the position must be causing a certain amount of concern.

There is no disputing the wholeheartedness of the South African, who is doing much that is valuable by the way in which he is taking the weight off the other members of the forward line, and he certainly did this on Saturday when he received a real buffeting.

MacEwan Erratic In His Finishing

AT the moment he is erratic in his finishing, a fault that might easily be eradicated as he gains experience and confidence, but he might, with more value, play the role for which he is best fitted—that of a straightforward leader.

Too many times in this match he was flicking at the ball or attempting to back-heal when he could have used a more direct approach.

However, although he could not be said to have had a successful time, he certainly kept the Stoke defence well on their toes and he will not meet such an accomplished centre-half as Thomson every week.

Thomson often stood between Stoke and dire trouble and this could easily have developed into a runaway victory for the Town.

Stoke Scored When Turner Was Off

SELDOM in the Second Division are they able to coast through

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

Birmingham C. v Bury
Blackburn R. v Plymouth A.
Derby Co. v Doncaster R.
Fulham v Bristol R.
Ipswich T. v Leeds Utd.
Middlesbrough v Lincoln C.
Nottm Forest v Notts Co.
Rotherham Utd. v Luton T.
Stoke C. v Hull C.
Swansea T. v Liverpool
West Ham v Port Vale

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v Wrexham
Barrow v Bradford C.

DIVISION I

Bradford v Gateshead
Carlisle Utd. v Crewe Alex.
Chester v Chesterfield
Grimsby T. v Darlington
Mansfield T. v Scunthorpe Utd.
Rochdale v Hartlepool Utd.
Southport v Oldham Ath.
Tranmere R. v Stockport Co.
Workington v Barnsley
York C. v Halifax T.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

QUARTER-FINALS

Airdrieonians v Ayr Utd.
East Fife v Morton
Hearts v St. Johnstone
Rangers v Motherwell

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v Hibernian
Clyde v Stirling A.
Falkirk v Partick T.
Kilmarnock v Dundee
Raith R. v Celtic

DIVISION "B"

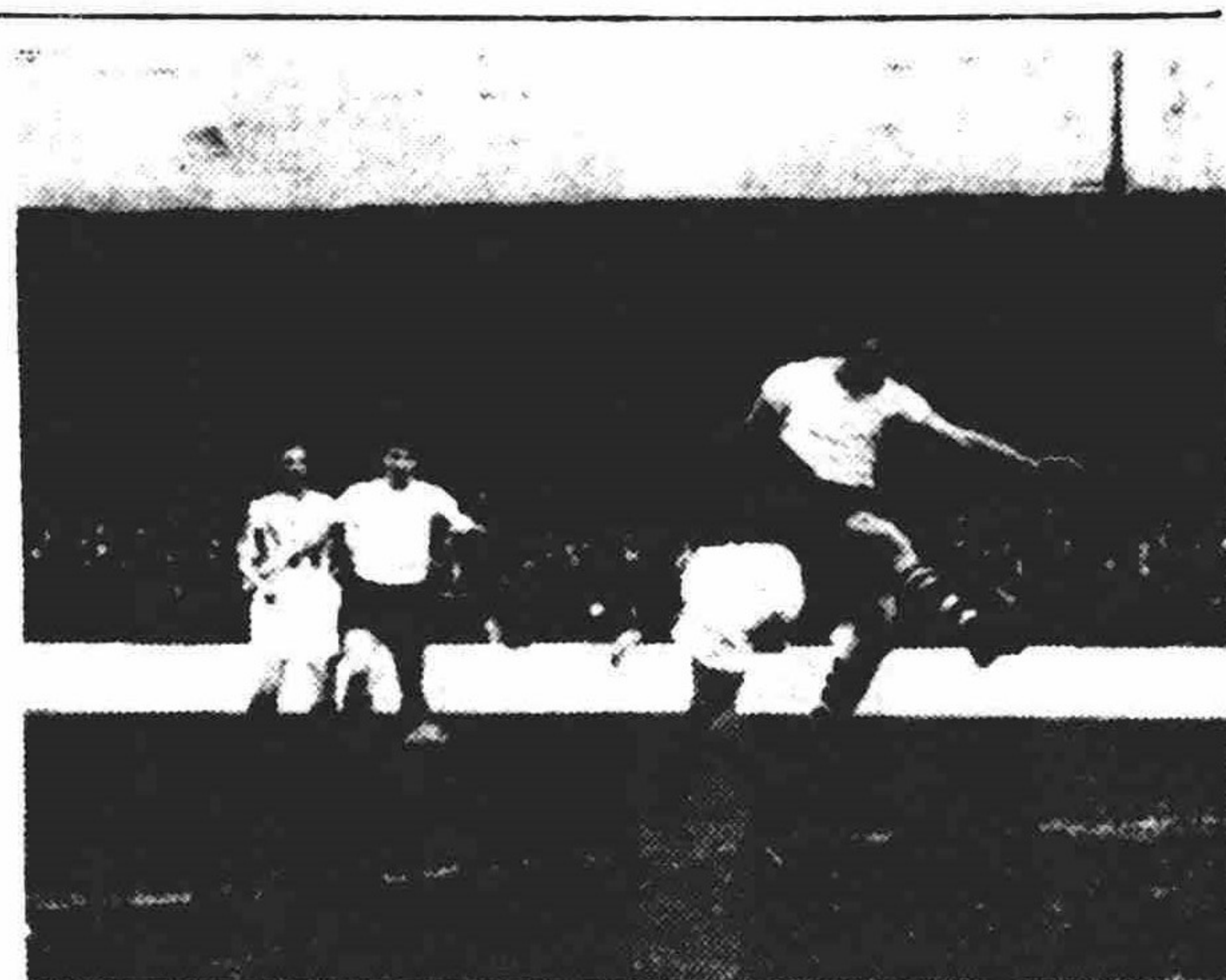
Albion R. v Cowdenbeath
Alloa v Arbroath
Dundee Utd. v Third Lanark
Dunfermline v Brechin C.
Forfar Ath. v Stenhousemuir

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Bolton, Portsmouth, West Brom, Birmingham, Blackburn, Fulham, Bristol C., Watford, Grimsby York.

FOUR AWAY: Preston, Don-

caster, Coventry, Chesterfield.
THREE DRAWS: Manchester C. v Manchester Utd.; Stoke v Hull; Barrow v Bradford C.



Peter MacEwan, still following through with his shot as the ball rebounds off the legs of Stoke goalkeeper, Robertson. Adam looks on hopefully. R3059K

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 3
Adam (2), Watkins

STOKE CITY 1
Bevans

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, MacEwan, Watkins, Adam.

STOKE CITY: Robertson; Short, McCue; Mountford, Thomson, Sellars; Bevans, Hutton, King, Cairns, Osocroft.

Referee: J. W. Malcolm, Leicester.

Attendance: 17,325.

a match so easily as they did in this, for Stoke were pathetically weak in attack, where they lacked both ideas and finishing power.

There was rarely any real danger of a goal being debited against the Town and it is significant that their only success came when the Town were reduced to ten men while Turner was off the field having attention for what looked to be a serious injury.

Happily, this did not turn out to be the case, for the trouble was that his boot had been stoved in by a kick and it was not, as we thought at the time, further damage to the ankle he injured at Middlesbrough.

Least Worrying Game For The Defence

THE goal which was obtained by Bevans after Streten had pushed out a hard drive by Osocroft, brought some belated fight from the Stoke forwards, but once they were at full strength again, the Town held out little hope to the opposition that they could make a dramatic rally.

For the defence, this was the least worrying game they have had this season, with Owen holding the middle of the field without the slightest difficulty, and Morton being given the opportunity and the room to give full rein to his attacking powers.

The forwards benefited accordingly, and there was good use of the ball, too, by Owen, who began the movement which

brought the third goal and the second obtained by Adam.

Adam Took Full Toll Of This Mistake

IN this instance, a bad mistake by Robertson, who dropped the ball after scooping up a low centre from Turner, made the success possible, but Adam was on the spot to make the fullest possible use of what turned out to be a gift of opportunity.

Adam was the danger man of the line and Turner was not so prominent in shooting as he usually is.

Nevertheless, he and Cullen teamed up into an effective right wing with the outside-right, less elaborate than is his wont, a success and, if he can show this form consistently, the loss of Davies, who is likely to be out for a fortnight, will not be felt too keenly.

Best-Ever Start In The Second Division

TAKING the game through, this was a solid, workmanlike performance by the Town, who beat their record of last season by gaining their sixth consecutive win.

There was much jubilation afterwards when it was learned that Luton had shot to the head of the Second Division and this is the best start they have made since they gained promotion.

The First Division prize has been lost on a couple of occasions because of the fact that a tardy start has been made.

Now, the Town have a solid foundation behind them and, if only they can be more fortunate with injuries which have affected the forward line so badly this season, they can easily emerge as favourites for promotion.

No Worries About The Defence

HOPES now are that the forward line will settle down and there are few worries about the defence.

There was complete confidence in this department on Saturday, with not the slightest suggestion of a weak link, Morton and Owen were the outstanding members of it, but the others did well, too, with Shanks prominent for the way in which he covered and Dunne and Aherne making sure that little threat came from the extreme wings.

Osocroft did have a good spell during the second half but in the main, the Stoke attack was the most ineffective that the Town have come up against this season.

Easy Afternoon For Bernard Streten

FOR Streten, there was almost an onlooker's role and he must have been grateful at times for the odd back pass to enable him to get a feel of the ball.

In the closing stages, he made a couple of fine saves but, in the main, this was the easiest afternoon he has had for a considerable time.

The display as a whole gave grounds for a good deal of satisfaction and, as things turned out, it was a lucky chance that gave Watkins the opportunity to remind everybody just how capable a ball player he is and to show the value of someone with his type of football brain to an attack.

Town C.C. Finish With Unbeaten Record

ONCE again, the Town C.C. have gone through a season without losing a match on a Saturday.

They made sure of maintaining this record at Barnet, over whom they gained a victory by 43 runs.

Top-scorer was Tom Clark, the Surrey player, who made 44 in stylish fashion and took part in a partnership of 65 for the second wicket with Horace Kippax, whose innings was a laboured effort.

Declaring at 134, John Oliver took a distinct chance, but his bowlers backed him up splendidly and Barnet could muster only 91, with Doug. Randall and Ron Gardiner doing the main damage.

CRICKET IN BRIEF

LUTON TOWN 134 for 7 dec. (T. H. Clark 44, H. G. Kippax 28, J. A. R. Oliver not out 15; M. Tant 4 for 36) BARNET 91 (R. Trott 17, G. F. O'Connor 17; D. S. Randall 4 for 29, R. D. Gardiner 3 for 22, I. Davison 2 for 18).

LEIGHTON BUZZARD 181 (N. Gunn 78; H. Hayhurst 5 for 73, J. G. Owen 5 for 75). VAUX HALL MOTORS 173 for 9 (S. Ruffett 60, R. Lloyd 30, C. Short 28; L. Brantom 5 for 84).

VAUXHALL SUNDAY 73 (A. Nelsey 26; C. Smith 7 for 20). LANGHAM ATH. 78 for 4 (C. Verge 37; R. Lloyd 2 for 24).

LEAGRAVE 53 (C. Baggale 21, H. Weir 14; L. Bleaney 3 for 6, H. Warren 3 for 17, A. Bir 3 for 21). J. GOODE'S XI 13 (P. Brewin 38; H. Weir 4 for 22).



Dukes ring a bell for it
Drill-sergeants yell for it
Good wholesome beer



Farm hands make hay for it
Visitors stay for it
The regulars favour it

Good wholesome beer

Let's have one at The Local