

THAT HOME RECORD STILL INTACT

FOUND GOAL PATH AFTER INTERVAL

The Final Pass Had Gone Astray Often Previously

By Chiltern

That 100-per-cent home record to which the Town are hanging on so firmly was never in a great deal of danger when they met Derby County on Saturday and, with maximum points from six matches at Kenilworth-road, the Town are in a happy position, as compared with last season.

Then, the first seven home games yielded only seven points and the loss of those early points which should have been safely in the bag, was a telling factor against them when the final reckoning came.

Now, the Town share with Leyton Orient the distinction of being the only team in the country which has not yielded a point at home, and there seems no reason why the good work should not continue, because the next visitors here, Plymouth Argyle and Swansea Town, should not pose a great deal of danger to the record.

In trying to assess the possible position of the Town at the end of this month and whether they will have been able to regain the leadership, which they failed to do on Saturday because of away successes by Rotherham and Stoke, one must take into account the difficulty of the next two away matches.

Main Query Remains About The Forwards

BRISTOL ROVERS, whom the Town visit on Saturday, are in particularly good form at the moment, but the Town defence is sound enough to curb the scoring potential of the Rovers' forwards.

The main query still remains the forward line, which rather worked in fits and starts on Saturday and which brought some anxiety by the way they failed to clinch their first-half superiority.

Much of this was due to the fact that the final pass so often went astray and that there was not the thrust at inside-forward necessary to round off some of the very good approach work that was produced at times.

More Finish Was The First Half Need

DERBY probably thought themselves lucky not to be a couple of goals behind at half-



Jesse Pye was in great form against Derby County on Saturday.

When, six minutes later, Pye scored one of the most spectacular goals that has come from him since he joined the club, the Town looked home and dry.

This was a goal that developed surprisingly quickly from a grand pass made by Shanks to Pye, who was out on the left wing.

Off went Pye at top speed, left Mozley groping, and then smacked in a terrific drive from an acute angle that Hunter touched, but the pace of the ball was too much for him.

Goal Riot Looked A Possibility Then

THIS was what the crowd wanted and, for a time, it looked as if the Town might run riot, for the Derby defence had a very unsettled period during which Mozley diverted the ball against the inside of a post after it had come across from Davies.

Then, chiefly through Imlach and Bell, the Derby forwards found more telling form than had previously been the case, and, with better finishing, they might very easily have got back into the game with a chance after all their hopes had seemingly disappeared.

Best opportunity fell to Dunn, who shot much too quickly and without accuracy.

More Pleased With Second Half Display

IN fact, the second half could well have produced a crop of goals, for Turner was unlucky with a shot that struck the inside of the post, and another from Pye "broke" just wide with Hunter hopelessly placed.

A final score of 5-2 to the Town would have been quite a feasible result, and Town officials must have felt a deal more pleased than they had at half-time.

There was more of a goal-hungry look about the line as a whole, mostly because the movements were developed more quickly, and there was a greater willingness to shoot.

Pye Caused The Main Trouble

MAN who caused the main trouble was Pye, who struck his best form in the second half when he played some brilliant football and was always a threat to the visiting defence when he had possession of the ball.

Most of his forays were made down the wing, and his display must have caused deep thought by Derby afterwards.

Certainly their rather sluggish forward line could do with a player of his calibre, and it rather raises the point of how the Town attack will fare without him, though that is something that belongs to the future, and there are many who will point to the display of the Town forwards without him against Stoke City.

Davies Made A Very Successful Return

NEVERTHELESS, he was the player who did the trick for the Town in this match, and he was most closely aided and abetted by Davies, who made a most successful return to the team and was always a great thruster.

There could have been more

of the ball for Adam, who had his most successful time in the second half, when his speed was a worry to Mozley, who had a difficult time in coping with both him and Pye.

Adam's finishing was not always of the best, but his speed made him a dangerous raider who required careful watching.

Much Approach Work Was Very Good

WHILE Watkins did not make such a deep impression as on his first appearance at inside-left, mainly because he usually took a bit too long to use the ball, the start of several movements could be traced to him and he was always trying to use the ball constructively.

Turner was again the chief marksman and was unlucky not to score more than one.

Lesson for the Town forwards to absorb in this match was the necessity for accuracy in the final pass and that it is mostly the quick, accurate pass that leads to goals, as it did in this case.

However, much of their approach work was most praiseworthy, despite that first-half tendency for it to break down in the region of the penalty area.

Inside Forwards Were Well Held

APART from the few occasions when the Derby forwards found their way through and should have scored, the Town defence had a reasonably quiet afternoon.

Much of this was due to the way in which Morton and Shanks blanketed out the inside-forwards, who were not much in evidence and this gave the visiting attack an unbalanced look.

Both wing halves did their part in this direction, but Morton was rather the stronger in his aid to the attack.

The dash of Bell, who has not had much experience as a leader, worried Owen occasionally but, on the whole, Owen was the master of the situation and he was seldom in real trouble.

Imlach Was A Worry To Dunne

WHEN it did arrive, it was usually through the exertions of the former Bury outside-left, Imlach, who gave Dunne a distinctly worrying second half when his speed and cleverness carried him through quite a lot.

These days, Dunne is relying more on "jockeying" an opponent than on the quick tackle and these tactics did not pay off in this instance.

There was a lot less trouble from Harrison, who was rarely

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN	 2
Turner, Pye	
DERBY COUNTY	 0
LUTON TOWN: Stretton; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Pye, Watkins, Adam.	
DERBY COUNTY: Hunter; Mozley, Barrowcliffe; Mays, Young, Upton; Harrison, Powell, Bell, Dunn, Imlach.	
Referee: B. E. A. Buckle, Peterborough.	
Attendance: 17,156.	

able to beat Aherne, and Stretton, who was able to watch a high percentage of the Derby shots whistle wide of the mark, was not in much difficulty either.

Reserves Battled With Ten Men

ALTHOUGH the Reserves really needed two points from their visit to Ipswich to persevere in their efforts to overhaul Norwich in the Combination Cup, they did extremely well, in the circumstances to return with one.

Early on, Norman Arnison, a late deputy for Cummins, who dropped out because of an ankle injury, hurt a knee and, leaving the field after half an hour, was unable to return.

So, with ten men, the Town faced an uphill struggle, but so well did they fight that they not only kept out the home team, but went near to scoring themselves.

Brilliant Form Of Baynham

PEMBERTON missed one opportunity when he shot straight at the goalkeeper from close in and Taylor hit the bar.

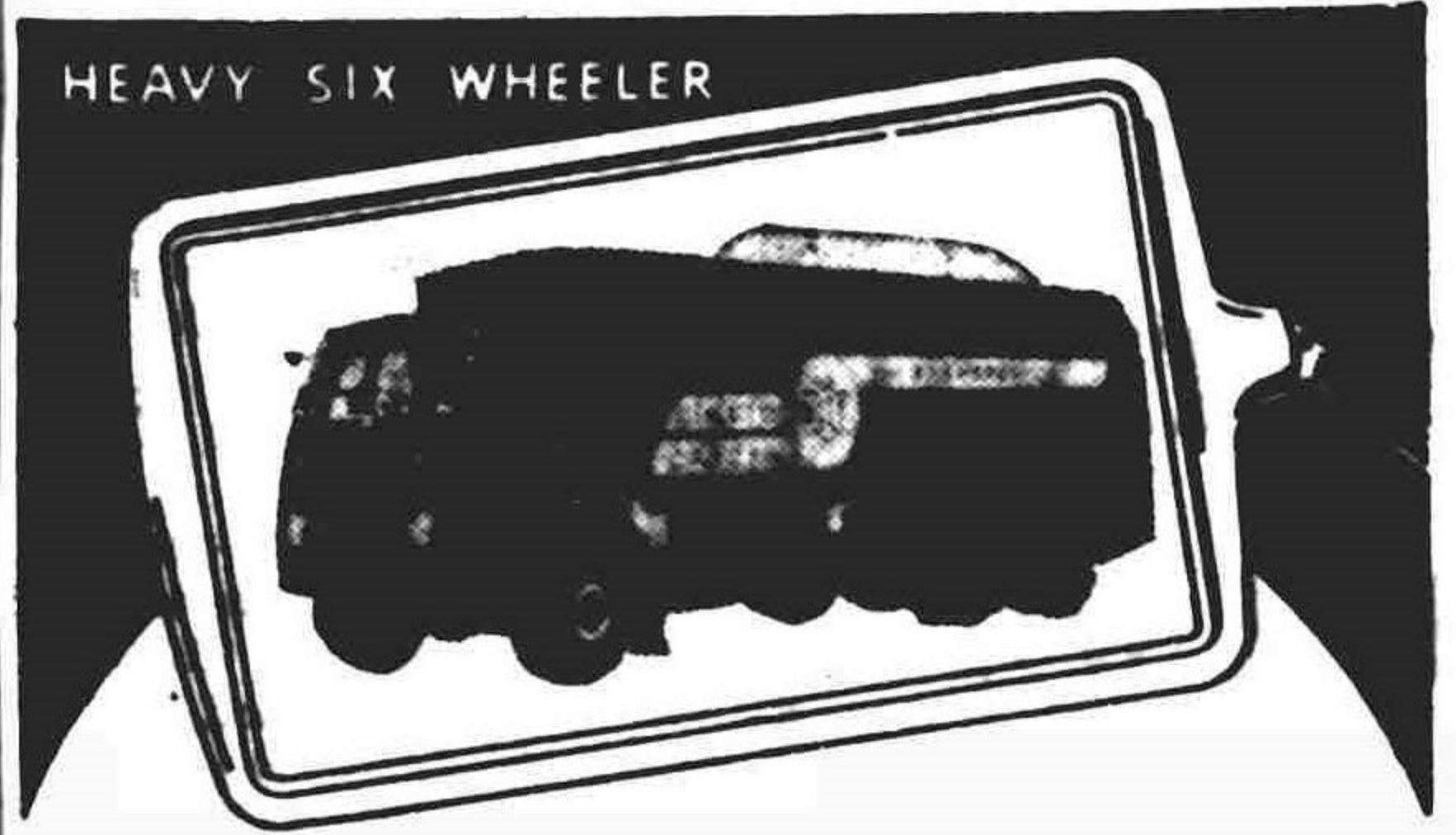
Those efforts apart though, it was mostly a struggle by a badly-handicapped team to keep a point and every player pulled his weight admirably. Star of the team was Baynham, who gave a brilliant display of goalkeeping in which his handling of high balls was a feature.

Arnison was doing very well until he was injured and at full strength the Town would most probably have secured the other point.

They have another important match to-morrow night when Leicester City are the visitors and the Town need to win to retain their interest in a place in the Cup semi-finals.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I	Chesterfield v Barrow
Aston Villa v Everton	Crewe Alex. v Workington
Blackpool v Preston N.E.	Darlington v Southport
Bolton W. v Leicester C.	Gateshead v York C.
Charlton Ath. v Burnley	Grimby T. v Wrexham
Huddersfield T. v Chelsea	Hartlepool Utd. v Halifax T.
Manchester Utd. v Cardiff C.	Rochdale v Burnley
Portsmouth v Sheffield Utd.	Stockport Co. v Oldham Ath.
Sheffield Wed. v Arsenal	Tranmere R. v Bradford C.
Sunderland v Newcastle Utd.	
Tottenham H. v West Brom	
Wolves v Manchester C.	
DIVISION II	SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINALS
Blackburn R. v Ipswich T.	Airdrieonians v Hearts
Bristol R. v Luton T.	East Fife v Motherwell
Derby Co. v Leeds Utd.	
Doncaster R. v Bury	SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"
Fulham v Birmingham C.	Aberdeen v Celtic
Liverpool v Rotherham Utd.	Clyde v Dundee
Notts Co. v Stoke C.	Kilmarnock v Partick T.
Plymouth A. v Hull C.	Queen of South v Hibernian
Port Vale v Lincoln C.	Raith R. v St. Mirren
Swansea T. v Middlesbrough	Rangers v Stirling A.
West Ham v Nottm Forest	
DIVISION III (SOUTH)	DIVISION "B"
Aldershot v Walsall	Albion R. v Arbroath
Bournemouth v Millwall	Alton Ath. v Cowdenbeath
Colchester v Brighton	Dundee Utd. v Brechin C.
Crystal Palace v Reading	Dumfries v Ayr Utd.
Exeter C. v Brentford	Forfar Ath. v St. Johnstone
Newport Co. v Coventry C.	Hamilton v Third Lanark
Northampton T. v Gillingham	Morton v Stenhousemuir
Norwich C. v Torquay Utd.	
Q.P.R. v Southampton	SELECTIONS
Southend Utd. v Bristol C.	TEN HOME: Bolton, Ports-
Swindon T. v Shrewsbury T.	mouth, Wolves, Blackburn, Ful-
Watford v Leyton O.	ham, West Ham, Northampton,
DIVISION III (NORTH)	Norwich, Chesterfield, Gateshead
Bradford v Scunthorpe Utd.	FOUR AWAY: Burnley, West
Carlisle Utd. v Mansfield T.	Brom, Stoke, Barnsley.
Chester v Accrington S.	THREE DRAWS: Sheffield
	Wed. v Arsenal; Plymouth v
	Hull; Colchester v Brighton.



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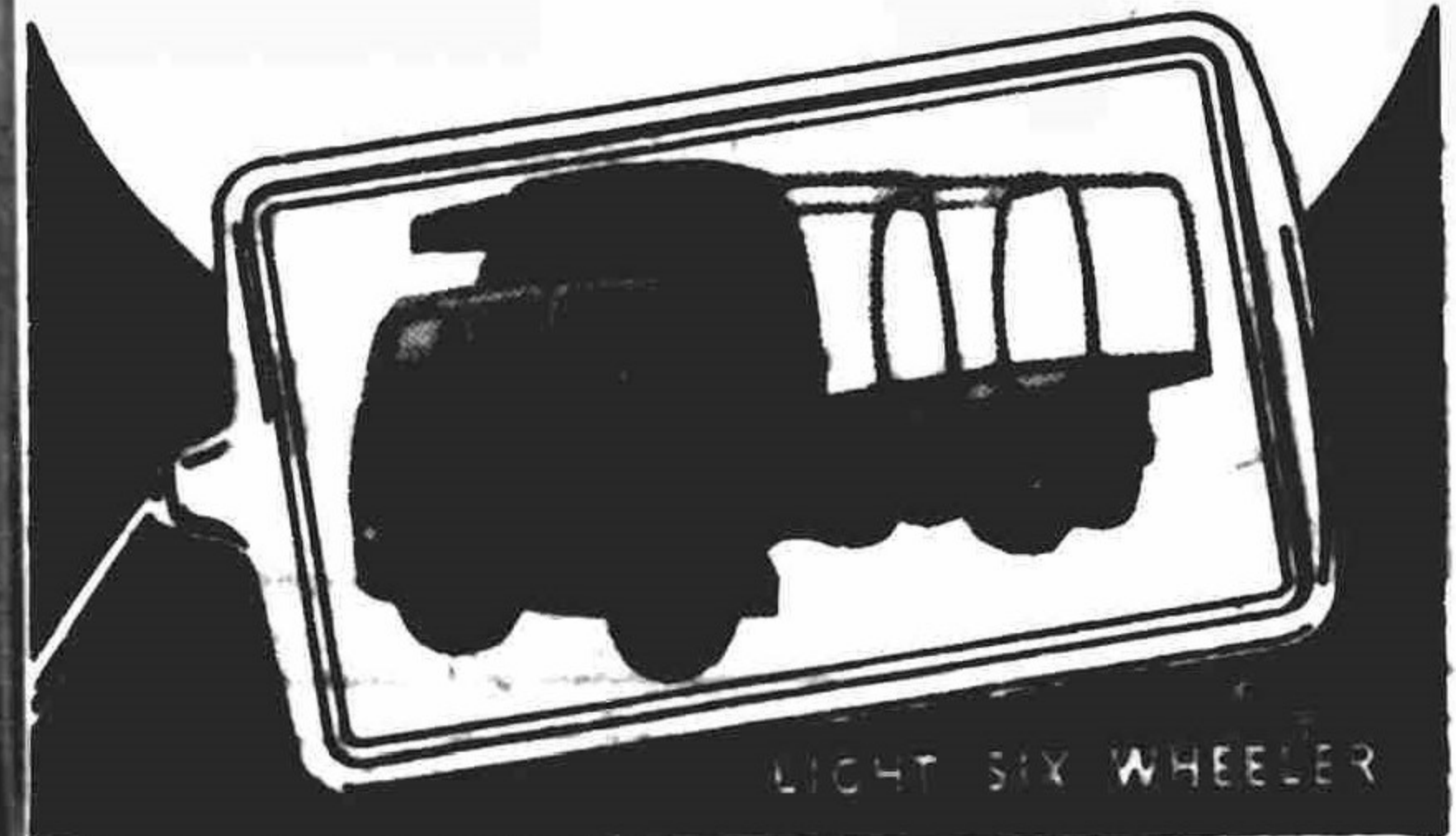
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