

PROBLEM THAT FACES THE TOWN

SHOULD A WINNING TEAM BE CHANGED?

Attack Unsatisfactory Despite The Victory

By Chiltern

Number one problem occupying the mind of Manager Dally Duncan this week must be whether or not to go against one of the oldest axioms in football which is: "Don't change a winning team." That he was far from satisfied with the Town's forward display on Saturday is no secret and the point at issue is whether from the resources available, a better front line can be produced for what is likely to be a tough test against Fulham at Craven Cottage next Saturday.

If the display against Plymouth has to be taken as a guide, I would not fancy their chances, and there is certainly no disposition at Kenilworth-road to put a rosy complexion on things as they stand at the moment, despite the excellent home record that has been achieved this season.

Reflecting on the situation, the manager yesterday was inclined to put some of the blame on the Thursday night match against the German team.

"There could have been some reaction from that, just as West Bromwich felt after their mid-week match in Brussels," he said yesterday.

Certainly, there was some lackadaisical sort of football and it was perhaps as well that Plymouth were such a mediocre lot that they were seldom in a position from which they could be truly said to threaten the Town's 100 per cent home record.

Forward Line Was Sluggish And Uneven

IT should not be forgotten, either, that Plymouth laboured under the handicap of having Langman a passenger for half the match and this deprived the forward line of some of the little thrust they had shown previously.

On the other hand, it could be that the Town came down to the level of their opponents as does often happen, but the bare fact remains that apart from the movements that brought the goals, the Town forward line looked very sluggish and uneven.

Much of their work is best forgotten and only the goals saved this match from going quickly into the limbo of forgotten things.

By half-time the fans were nearly despairing of seeing any goals from the Town, and the

nearest approach to one was an offside effort by Turner.

Owed Much To Morton's Power

TO Morton, the Town owed a great deal for his help in bringing more life to the attack and he had a big hand in the first goal that came eleven minutes after the interval.

Taking up position on the right wing, Morton was there to accept a pass from Davies and his centre was flicked on by Turner to Adam, who hit the ball through on the volley.

That eased the situation to a marked extent so far as the Town were concerned, but the game was really clinched in the 74th minute when Turner allowed a pass from Watkins to run through to Morton, again on the right wing, and this time his centre was beautifully headed into the net by Davies, who had switched inside in readiness for just such a move.

Turner Scored His Ninth This Season

FOUR minutes later, Davies made an opening for Turner, who drove the ball powerfully between Major and the post to bring his tally for the season to nine goals in 13 matches.

That, we thought, was that—a satisfactory ending to a drab sort of game with the Town equalling their previous best victory of the season.

However, it was not to be, for Plymouth upset calculations five minutes from the end when a speculative shot by Porteous eluded Stretton and made the score look a little better from the Plymouth point of view.

First reaction was to blame Stretton for this, for he seemed to go the wrong way and then slip as he turned on the greasy turf.

However, in the dressing-room

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 3
Adam, Davies, Turner
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 1
Porteous
LUTON TOWN: Stretton;
Dunne, Aherne; Morton,
Hall, Shanks; Davies, Turner,
Kelly, Watkins, Adam.
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE:
Major; Ratcliffe, Morgan;
Tilley, Robertson, McShane;
Tadman, Dows, Longman,
Porteous, Anderson.
Referee: G. McCabe, Shelfield. Attendance: 15,059.

afterwards, several players who were in line with the ball said it swerved at least a yard, which took the goalkeeper by surprise.

Is Kelly To Be Persevered With?

IN choosing the attack for this weekend, a decision will now have to be made whether Kelly is to be persevered with as the leader in the senior team or whether he will go back in the Reserves to gain experience in the position which, after all, is comparatively new to him.

After all, he has rather been rushed into League football, for, at the start of the season the intention was to experiment with him as a forward in the "A" team and then gradually let him gain promotion.

So far, he has not received the best of support in the shape of through passes and hard fighter though he is, and battle as he did with Robertson, he could not be said to have achieved a success in this match.

It would have been better at times had he done some wandering out of the middle.

Greasy Conditions Were Against Him

IN fairness, though, let it be said that few shooting chances cropped up for him and conditions, with the ball shooting off the greasy turf, were all against him.

When the mud comes and the ball is not moving so quickly, he might be a different proposition altogether.

Distinctly off colour in the first half, Watkins came into the game with some neat footwork and distribution after the interval but, in the main, he took too long to make use of the ball and was prone to run into trouble.

While he was scarcely in top form and might have been handicapped by the knee injury that made him a doubtful starter until just before the match, Turner made more accurate through passes than any member of the inside trio and the right wing was certainly the more effective in this match.

Davies Concerned In The Three Goals

AFTER a first half in which he did not receive a deal of the ball, Davies thrived on the increased work later, partly through the fine backing-up of Morton, and he was concerned in each of the three goals, all of which were very well taken.

Well below the form he has been showing recently was Adam, whose attempts to beat Ratcliffe on the outside nearly always met with disaster.

Had he varied his tactics a little, and tried coming through on the inside, he might have been more successful.

However, Ratcliffe quickly fell to the winger's intentions, watched him closely, with the result that little came from the left wing, though Adam again showed his powers of opportunism by closing in for the first goal.

Hall Settled Down To Be A Success

FEARS that Owen would be badly missed were dispelled by the effective way in which Hall filled the gap once he had settled down.

Certainly, as had been expected after his somewhat prolonged absence from league football, he took time to get the feel of things, but, once he did, he was a rare barrier, and Plymouth played into his hands to a marked extent by continually ballooning the ball into the air.

Hall was most certain in his heading and he did not hesitate to clear his lines first time when danger threatened.

Not an over-decorative display, perhaps, but one that was well suited to the occasion, and emphasised once again what a valuable servant Hall is, and how keen he is to do his best in which even the three teams he is called upon to play.

Outstanding Part By Morton

WORRIES about the defence are almost non-existent

and they looked like steering towards another clean sheet until that unfortunate goal in the closing minutes.

Once again, the Town's wing halves put the opposing inside forwards out of the game which explained to some extent, the ineffectiveness of the visiting attack.

Morton was outstanding for the support which he gave the attack in the second half and, indeed, all through, he was the best attacking wing-half on the field.

There were good marks for Shanks, too, for his industry and it was noticeable that he was always on hand to cover Hall, something that became less necessary as the game wore on.

Dunne Made Good Use Of The Ball

CLOSE marking and hard and fearless tackling was a feature of the play of both Dunne and Aherne, with the result that there were few chances for either Tadman or Anderson.

In the second half, Dunne came to the fore with the way in which he used the ball, with all the accuracy of a wing-half at times, after he had come through with it.

This was a most satisfactory partnership and Dunne has got over a somewhat sticky period.

Given the captaincy for the day in honour of the occasion which marked his 250th appearance for the Town in Second Division matches, Stretton did not have a great deal to do, though he dealt capably with two or three difficult shots.

In conceding the only goal, he was unlucky, and only from behind the goals would it be possible to see how the ball moved in the air.

Reserves Guilty Of Poor Finishing

WEAK finishing cost the Town Reserves the chance of beginning their Football Combination programme with a win against Charlton at The Valley on Saturday, for they had sufficient chances of doing so.

What let them down, in



BOB MORTON

gave an outstanding performance at right-half.

addition to some poor shooting, was a tendency to overdo the short passing which was even carried into the penalty area.

In this direction, Cummins was a culprit, but all members of the attack missed chances and MacEwan hit the bar with the home goalkeeper on his knees.

As it was, the only success was an "own goal" affair caused when a shot by Pemberton was deflected by Darvell and it equalised a goal by Barry obtained after only five minutes play.

Defence Held Up The Charlton Attack

STRONG defensive play, with Thompson having another very good game at left-back, kept out the Charlton forwards and there was another polished exhibition from Baynam who did not make even the slightest suggestion of an error.

Pemberton was the best of the half-backs, and has settled down extremely well at right-half, but there was a useful game, too, from Dallas, back after a lay-off with an ankle injury.

The better football came from the Town and more forward punch would have given them a win.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

Blackburn R. v Rotherham U.
Bristol R. v Leeds Utd.

Derby C. v Middlesbrough
Fulham v Luton T.
Liverpool v Bury
Notts County v Lincoln C.
Plymouth A. v Nottm Forest
Port Vale v Ipswich T.
Swansea T. v Hull C.
West Ham v Stoke C

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Bradford v Accrington S.
Cardiff Utd. v Barrow
Chester v Workington
Charterfield v York C.
Crewe Alex v Southport
Darlington v Halifax T.
Gateshead v Oldham Ath.
Grimsby T. v Mansfield T.
Huddersfield Utd. v Bradford C.
Rushcliffe v Wrexham
Stockport C. v Barnsley
Tranmere R. v Scunthorpe U.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Hearts v Motherwell

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v East Fife
Clyde v Hibernian
Falkirk v St. Mirren
Queen of South v Partick T.
Raith R. v Stirling A.
Rangers v Dundee

DIVISION "B"

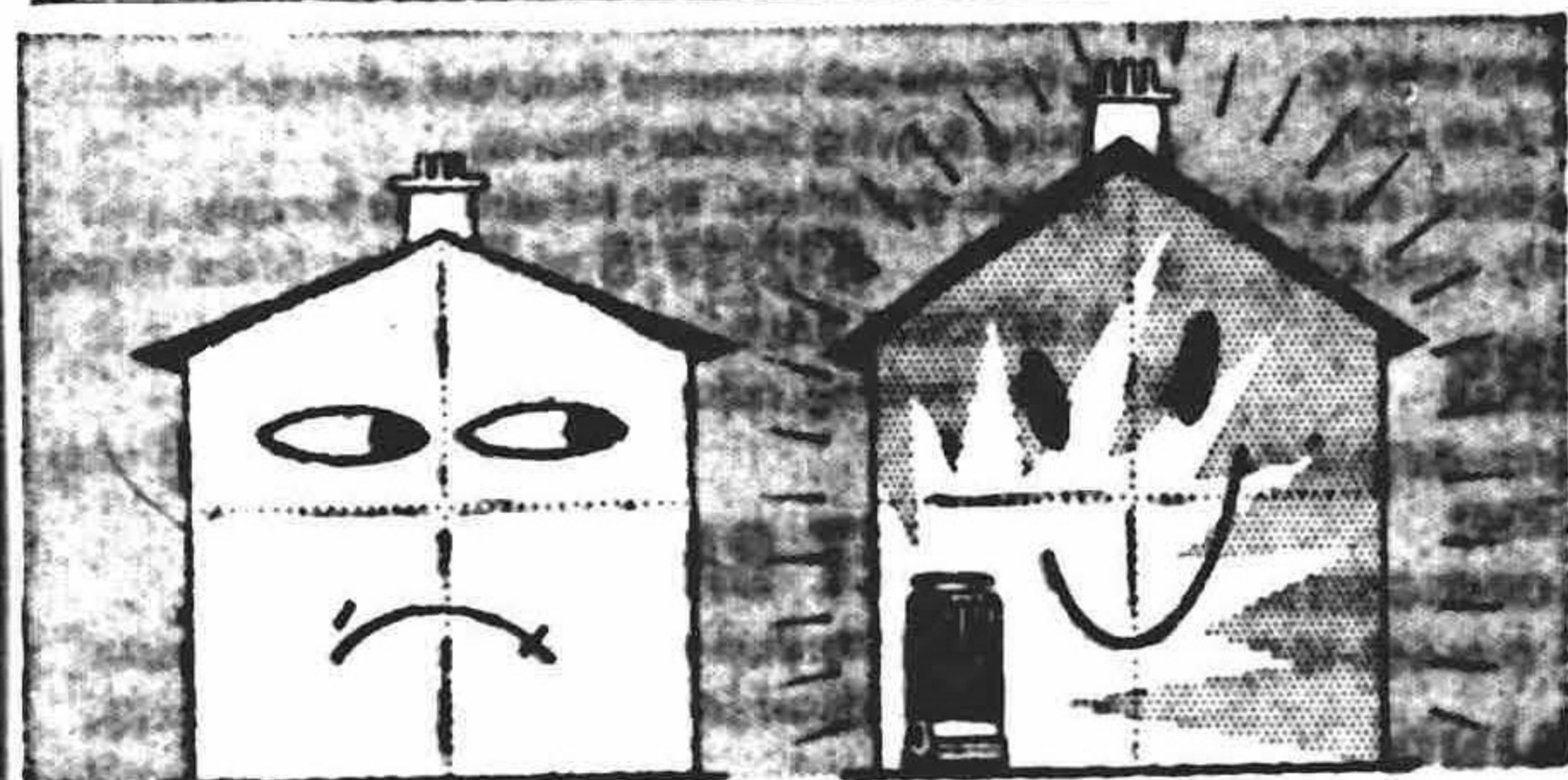
Albion R. v Third Lanark
Dunfermline v Stenhousemuir
Hamilton v Airdrieonians
Morton v St. Johnstone

SCOTTISH CUP

Alles v Fraserburgh
Arbroath v Brechin C.
Berwick R. v Clackmannon
Inverness T.
Backie T. v Queen's Park
Condanhath v Ayr Utd.
Dundee Utd. v Forfar Ath.
Montrose v Breck R. or Inverness C.
Peebles v Lomondmouth or Forfar Mechanics

SELECTIONS
TEN HOME—Manchester U.
Portsmouth, Sunderland, Bristol Rovers, Liverpool, Northampton, Norwich, Watford, Chester, and Darlington.

FOUR AWAY—Preston, Hull, Bristol City, Scunthorpe.
THREE DRAWS—Wolves, West Brom, Plymouth v Nottm Forest, Q.P.R. v Leyton O.



Housewarming News about paraffin

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