

Unchanged Town Side Likely

DOUBT ABOUT ADAM, SO NO RISK WILL BE TAKEN

With a doubt still existing about the fitness of Jim Adam, it looks very much as if the Town will be unchanged for the first of their holiday matches, the visit of Hull City to Kenilworth-road on Christmas Day.

Adam was examined by a specialist earlier this week, with the result that the earlier diagnosis of a strained knee ligament was confirmed and also brought the good news that there is no damage to the cartilage.

"If there is any doubt at all, it is much better to leave him out any risks at this vital period," said Manager Dally Duncan, who would have been faced with a ticklish situation, anyway.

On his showing at Nottingham, Michael Cullen deserves to stay in the team, for he showed a much greater appreciation of what is needed at outside-left, and suggested that he can settle down in the position.

He has not the speed of Adam, but much of his approach work was very well done, and he had a hand in at least two of the goals.

Town's Bright Chance Of A Good Holiday

SO, unless there is a late change of mind caused by Adam making unexpected progress, the Town line-up will be:

Bayham; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Cullen.

Wally Shanks received a nasty crack on the shin during the first half of the game with the Forest, but it has not prevented him from doing normal training this week.

At holiday periods when injuries, or freedom from them, can play such a leading part, preconceived ideas can change radically, but, judging by recent form, the Town should hold a bright chance of taking three points from their meetings with Hull.

Boothferry Park Has Been Lucky For Town

IF they do not win on Saturday, then it will be a major surprise and their record at Boothferry Park is such that it must encourage them to hope for success in this direction, too.

Only once on five previous visits there have the Town come away unrewarded, and they can look back on three consecutive victories on this spacious ground. These were by 2-1, 2-0 and 2-1, and their only defeat was by 5-3 in a rousing match in the 1950-51 season. Before that, they had gained a 1-1 draw there.

In the last two seasons the Town have completed the double over Hull, and if they could repeat the dose on this occasion they might well find themselves at the top of the Second Division when all the Christmas excitement has evaporated.

Hull Slumped After A Fine Start

AFTER a bright start to the season, as the result of which they looked like having a big say in the promotion struggle, Hull have slumped into the lower half of the table and stand six points behind the Town.

For them to force themselves back into the picture, they must have a successful holiday, and their record since the beginning of November cannot give them an optimistic feeling about the situation.

None of their last seven matches have they finished on the winning side and, during the period, they have collected only three points.

Should Be No Danger Of A Form Upset

THERE are, of course, two ways of looking at this. The lack of success may have sapped the confidence of the team but, on the other hand, the law of averages could come into the matter, too.

However, if the Town strike their best, then there should be no danger of a form upset in the first match, anyway.

From their last five away games, Hull have taken only one point—in a 2-2 draw at Doncaster—and defeats came their way at Leeds (3-0), Blackburn (2-1) and Swansea (1-0).

Two of their three away wins, both by 1-0 against Lincoln and Nottingham Forest were gained in the first week of the season and their other success was by 2-1 at Plymouth.

In addition, during their good early spell, they drew at Birmingham, Stoke and West Ham.

Home Form Has Been In-and-Out

AT home, their form has been rather in-and-out, for they have been beaten four times, by Leeds (2-0), West Ham (1-0), Rotherham (2-1) and Bristol Rovers (1-0).

Fulham and Derby drew at Boothferry Park and their victims have been Lincoln (4-0), Ipswich (4-2), Middlesbrough (1-0), Port Vale (2-1) and Notts County (5-2).

Had their forwards been as adequate as the defence has been, and the first step was taken at a special general meeting recently when the clubs approved a recommendation by the Executive Committee.

This was on the lines that the Premier Division should consist of first teams only of amateur clubs of good standing located in Bedfordshire and the surrounding counties.

Admission will be by invitation only, the right being retained to invite clubs in the two highest places in Division I to compete in the Premier Division.

The meeting gave the Executive full powers to allocate clubs into divisions for next season.

About Six New Clubs Will Be Needed

IN a circular which has been published, the Hon. Secretary, F. C. Crain says it is the Executive's intention to do all in their power to make the Premier Division a senior amateur league, covering the area between that of the greater London and midland leagues.

At the moment, the Spartan, Hellenic and Parthenon Leagues stretch into Bedfordshire, but there is no top league for amateurs beyond them.

In the Premier Division as constituted at the moment, there is a good nucleus, with the addition of perhaps six good amateur teams from Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Northants or Bucks, would put them on a footing with other leagues.

Bedfordshire At Home In Youth Cup

THIRD round of the F.A. County Youth Cup will be played rather earlier than Bedfordshire thought would be the case, and it has to be completed by January 29.

Bedfordshire have a home tie with Middelex, and if they can overcome them, will also be at home in the next round to Sussex, who have reached that stage through a bye.

At the moment, there are seven teams left in the southern area and four in the northern. The fourth round has to be played February 19.

Local Rugby "Derby" On Tuesday

THE local rugby "derby" between Old Lutonians and Old Dunstable has been postponed until next Tuesday and will now take place at Dunstable.

Because two or three of their regular players are not available over the holiday, Old Lutonians will not be at full strength, but the club possesses sufficient experience to reserve to field the following strong side:

Yorkie; Walter, Thorpe, Fensome, Thurlow; Pakes, Bracey; Adkins, Vaughan, Shepherd, Heane, Howe, Packwood, Lovell, Cato.

County's Choice For Netball Match

NEXT county netball fixture is due on Saturday week, when Bedfordshire meet the Civil Service on the Vauxhall ground.

They will be represented as follows:

First team: B. Handscombe (Luton), M. Walters (SKF), J. Ansell (Davis), P. Valentine (Davis), K. Coleman (SKF), Edlin (Arlesey), J. Thorne (Electrolux).

Second team: Joan Shepherd (Letchworth), J. Johnson (Luton), Y. Goodson (Bedford), A. Maxwell (Letchworth), Janet Shepherd (Letchworth), B. Mathers (Bedford), D. Poiner (Letchworth).

Darts

TODDINGTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE DIVISION 'A'

Dog and Badger 13 11 2 0 24

Chequers 13 11 2 0 20

Red Lion, Bidwell 14 7 3 10

Avon Arms 13 6 3 15

George 13 6 3 15

Swan, Flitwick 13 5 4 13

Coach and Horses 13 5 2 12

Falcon Arms 13 4 3 13

Houghton Sports 13 4 5 12

Red Lion, Toddington 13 4 5 12

Whitworth Arms 13 2 6 10

Eving House 13 2 6 10

Whitworth Arms 13 2 6 10

Rising Sun 13 2 2 6

Swan, Tingith 13 1 3 9 5

DIVISION 'B'

Bel 12 10 2 0 22

Star and Garter 12 8 2 2 18

Bird in Hand 12 7 3 16

Jolly Coopers 12 7 3 16

Green Man 12 5 4 14

Companies 12 6 0 12

Whitworth Horn 12 5 4 13

Griffin 12 4 4 12

Royal Oak 12 5 2 12

Red Lion, Evesholt 13 4 3 11

Bull 12 4 3 11

Crows 12 2 4 10

New Inn 12 2 9 4

Nags Head 12 0 3 10

Greyhound Racing

FOUR WINNERS FOR TRAP 2 AT LUTON ON TUESDAY

Winning prices were low at Luton Stadium on Tuesday night when the only surprise—and that a mild one—was in the sixth race when Chico won at 5-1.

Traps 3 and 4 drew blanks but there were four winners for trap number 2.

1 (40yds).—1, JANY (2); 2, Needy Friend (6); 3, Ford (1); 4, Kelling (4); 5, Eagle's Nest (5); 6, Whiskers (3). Head, 6, 3, 8, 6, 24.1.

2 (40yds).—1, JANY, 4 Kelling, 9-2 Eagle's Nest, 5 Whiskers, Ford, 6 Needy Friend, Forecast £2 8s. 0d.

11 (40yds).—1, ALL WHITE (6); 2, Julie's Girl (2); 3, Cliff's (6); 4, Nancy (5); 5, MacNab (3); 6, Mitz (1). 5, 3, 6, 4, 4, 28.64.

9-4 ALL WHITE, 3 Julie's Girl, Nancy, 7 Cliff's Pal, 8 MacNab, Mitz, Forecast £1 6s. 3d.

10 (40yds).—1, NOROOZ (2); 2, Princess (3); 3, Sports (6); 4, Express (6); 5, Blue Midge (4); 6, Whipped Cream (5); 6, Bantam (1). Neck, head, neck, 3, 4, 25.58, Off 8.19.

2 Blue Midge, 4 NOROOZ, Princess, 9-2 Sporting Express, Whipped Cream, 8 Bantam, Forecast £1 16s. 0d.

14 (40yds).—1, RODNEY (2); 2, Defender (4); 3, Rocky (1); 4, Jim Peters (6); 5, Do-Do (5); 6, Porrojo (3). 3, 14, 14, 14, 24.79, Off 8.18.

3 Rocky, Porrojo, 7-2 RODNEY, Jim Peters, 4 Defender, 7 Do-Do, Forecast £2 2s. 6d.

15 (40yds).—1, IDA (1); 2, Niggy (3); 3, Abby (4); 4, Kik-Kat (5); 5, Old C (6); 6, Reserve (6). Reg (3), 1, 5, 3, 6, 1, 28.02, Non-runner, Sepac (6), Off 8.56.

6-4 IDA, 4 Night Sky, 9-2 Cabby, 5 Kik-Kat, Old Coat, Reg, Forecast £1 0s. 9d.

16 (40yds).—1, CHICO (5); 2, Whitelea (1); 3, Jackdaw (4); 4, Parlez-Vous (2); 5, Sir Garnet (3); 6, Best Wishes (6). 1, 14, 3, 24.43, Off 9.13.

2 Jackdaw, 3 Parlez-Vous, Sir Garnet, 4 Whitelea, 5 CHICO, 6 Best Wishes, Forecast £4 7s. 3d.

17 (40yds).—1, THE PORPOISE (6); 2, Lym (3); 3, Long-Ashed, 4 Blackbird (5); 5, W.C.N. (2); 6, Plasterer (1). 4, 1, 3, 4, 4, 28.11, Off 9.30.

5-4 THE PORPOISE, 4 Blackbird, 7-4 Longfellow, 4 Blackbird, 7



JOHNNY DOWNIE, former Luton inside-forward, who will be playing against the Town on Christmas Day.

EQUALISER IN LAST MINUTE

Town "A" Nearly Snatched Two Points

GUILDFORD C. RES. 2 LUTON TOWN "A" 2

Although they spent most of the second half on the defensive, Luton "A" were slightly surprised not to collect two points from this Metropolitan League match.

They were leading 1-0 at the interval, and although Guildford equalised within a minute of the start of the second half, Luton scored again two minutes later, and then held out until the 89th minute when TESTER, the home centre-half, who was helping his forwards in attack, scored Guildford's second goal.

Heroes of the Luton team were Alan Collier, who was in great form in goal, and centre-half Les Hall, whose vast experience and strength in the tackle were invaluable.

LOASBY, who pulled a muscle in the second half and spent the remainder of the game on the wing, gave Luton the lead soon after the start. SOUTHOPT put Guildford on terms in the 46th minute, but two minutes later FLINT restored Luton's lead.

Then Guildford pressed to such an extent that Luton were confined to their own half for long periods. Collier and Hall worked heroically, and Moody and Collins, who normally play in the Town's fourth team, also turned in good displays.

At centre-forward, MacEwan moved well, and his ball distribution was good.

Billiards

THREE TEAMS SHARE LEAD

Position in the Billiards Section of Luton District Billiards and Snooker League is that three teams share first place. They are: Social, Beech Hill "A" and Beech Hill "B".

Beech-hill "A" (tr. 100) 648, Leagrave Legion (tr. 100) 496, High Town (tr. 150) 376, Social (Scratch) 308.

Vauxhall (tr. 100) 681, Percival (tr. 110) 508, Luton Coms. (tr. 110) 621, Beech-hill "B" (tr. 150) 602, Davis (tr. 150) 510, Coms "A" (tr. 20) 587.

Cycling

NOVICES' TROPHY FOR D. MOULSTER

Luton Wheelers had a busy round of social activities during the week-end. On Saturday several members attended the North Bucks C.C. annual dinner at Bletchley, and on Sunday the club's Christmas party was held at Peter's Green.

On Boxing Day the Wheelers' walking team will be in action at Leighton Buzzard. David Moulster has been awarded the Wheelers' Novices' Trophy.

Luton Arrow members rode to Northampton on Sunday, and next Tuesday there will be a club run to Eaton Bray.

Golf

S. BEDS MEDAL COMPETITION

The December medal at South Beds on Saturday attracted an entry of over forty players. Results: Winner: H. D. Conolly (20) 72, Runners-up: F. Press (19) 73, R. Overhill (22) 73.

Other scores: R. Gurney (10) 75; P. Wilson (11) 75; T. P. Dowling (20) 75; H. Goodman (5) 76.

Premier Division

DAGNALL 2 (Cutler, Baughan), CANNINGTON 5 (Banks 3, King, Pain), GLENDALE 3 (Bleddil 2, Curnson), NAPIER SPORTS 0, STOPPLEY 5 (Manton 3, Weston, Goodman), TOTTINGHAM ROVERS 0, LUTON TOWN 1 (Westley), PIONEER CORINTHIANS 6 (Parrott 2, Phillips 2, Rawson, opponent).

DIVISION I LILLEY RANGERS 6 (Weston 3, Carr, Walsh, Gibbs), STOPPLEY RES. 1 (Axtwood), LUTON TOWN "C" 0, LAPORTE 6 (Bunney 3, Burrows, Horsfield, Loomes), HOCKLIFE 1, LEAGRAVE B.L. 1 (Conlon).

ENGLISH ELECTRIC 4 (Eaton 2, Hazard, Dorrington), LEAGRAVE AT 2 (Dackombe, Tansley), LUTON LTD. HOSPITALS 3 (Evans 1, L. Copple, WEST PARK RES. 1 (Rowlands).

SHILLINGTON "A" 3 (Martin, Cole, Robinson), BELLS PARK 2 (Fennell, Pickering).

DIVISION II SKEFFO ATH. 1, SUNDON PARK 2 (McCormack, Clayton), LEAGRAVE PRESS 2 (Abbott, McArthur), HUNTING PERCIVAL 2 (Hart, Stone), R.A.P.A. 1, WARDEN HILL ATH. 6 (Baylis, Kenrick, Holt, Wilson, Burrell, Hoggins).

CADDINGTON "B" 5 (R. Ginger 3, Upton, Thorn), SPARIT SPORTS 3, GLENDALE RES. 4 (Jonta 2, Mead 2), OLD LUTONIANS 2 (Bates, Loomes), DAVIS ATH. 1 (Evans), ROBIN HOODS 3.

LUTON SOCIAL RES. 5 (Williams 2, SOCIAL, WEST, DAVENPORT), DALE ATH. 3 (Yearley 2, Dimmock).

DIVISION III BOYS' BRIGADE O.B. 5 (Clifton 3, Panton, W. & D.), ALLANCE FOUNDRY 0, NAPIER APPRENTICES 0, WALCOT ATH. 1, SHAW AND KILBURN 4 (Farndon 2, Hanley 2), HUNTING PERCIVAL APP. 5 (Norcott, Taylor, Wells, Brooker, Ashby).

LUTON BREWERY 2 (Punter 2), BIDWELL 5, LUTON SPARTANS 15 (King 4, Basterfield 4, Fensome 4, Butterfield 4, Copron, McAneney), SUNDON O.B. 3.

DIVISION IV GIDAN ATH. 3 (Mallard, Smith, R. Williams 2, Lake), LAPORTE RES. 2 (Buckingham, LUTON, SUNDON PARK RES. 6 (R. Jones 3, Cook 2, Lench 1), LUTON O.B. 1 (Plummer), TOTTINGHAM ROVERS RES. 3, TOTTINGHAM RES. 2, LILLEY RANGERS 3 (Martin, Impey, Lovett).

LUMOCO SPORTS 7 (Evans 3, Gilbert, Pedder, Scowen, Baylis), WOOTTON RES. 2 (Manning, Walder), WALDEN RANGERS 7, VILLA ROVERS 0.

DEFIANT GOALKEEPER

Made Reserves Drop A Point

Luton Town Reserves.... 2 Blettingham City Reserves 2

Several League clubs are credited with an interest in Birmingham City's reserve goalkeeper, Schofield, and on Saturday at Kenilworth-road the player in question gave one of the finest exhibitions seen at Luton this season.

Although the Luton forwards were goal-hungry and shot whenever an opportunity presented itself, they were foiled time and time again by the agile Schofield, who, after being beaten by GROVES in the seventh minute, turned in an immaculate display. It was a header from Groves that beat him, and Luton gained confidence from this early goal and proceeded to play copy-book football.

Their forward line moved dangerously, with Pearce who can hold the ball and split defences with accurate passes, prompting brilliantly. Pearce almost increased the lead a few minutes after Groves had scored, but Schofield stopped his shot.

Just before the interval Birmingham improved but it was a surprise when KINSEY equalised in the 43rd minute.

VISITORS IMPROVED Birmingham scored again in the 53rd minute, through HURLEY, and the visitors gave a much better display after the interval. However, Luton fought back, and KELLY put them on terms again after a great shot from Pearce had hit the crossbar and bounced down.

At the closing stages Luton threw everything into attack in an effort to get the winner. Had they done so it would have been no more than they deserved, but Birmingham held out to win a fortunate point. During the first period of Luton pressure Allen did much useful work and was unlucky not to score. With Pearce he formed a smart, go-ahead wing, and both players interchanged positions freely and were too nippy for Birmingham's experienced defence.

On the other flank, Hawkes, playing in the unaccustomed position of outside-left, tried hard, but did not look much at home. In defence, McGuffie, in his first game for the Reserves, for several weeks, was always working, and some of his through passes were excellent. Dallas had a difficult job watching Hurley, a lively centre-forward, but he did well, and Jones and Thompson were seldom troubled by the opposing wingers.

LUTON TOWN RES: Streten; Jones, Thompson; McGuffie, Dallas, Smith; Allen D. Pearce, Kelly, Groves, Hawkes.

BIRMINGHAM CITY RES: Schofield; Allen G. Martin; Bannister, Edwards, Badham, Stewart, Kinsey, Hurley, James, Cox.

BEST POST-WAR WIN AWAY FROM HOME

Defence Held, Then Town Forwards Struck Hard

By Chiltern NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1 LUTON TOWN 5

After a first half in which they struggled in vain to find their best form in attack and yet scored twice, the Town made the Forest feel the full force of their finishing power afterwards and went on to secure their biggest post-war away victory.

In the end, there was no doubting their complete superiority, for the Forest became a thoroughly demoralised lot, crushed by the striking power of the Town front line and humbled by the sight of their supporters streaming off the ground while play was still going on.

From the Town, this was the sort of form that makes promotion a bright prospect. Bayham not only was there complete soundness in defence which held firm when the Forest might have built up an early lead, but the forwards clicked into top gear when they realised that their previous tactics had been wrong.

Before the interval, all too frequently, the Town's movements broke down in midfield, not only because there was over-use of the short pass, but because also the final pass was often made awkwardly. It was during this spell that the Forest's best chance occurred, for they had much more of the play than the Town.

The more scoring chances came their way, too, but they lacked steadiness in front of goal and although Bayham was severely tested at times, on the whole the Town defence was too strong for the home forwards.

Bayham earned frequent applause for his first-half work and there is little doubt that he had not been in such tremendous form. The Town would have been in a different situation at the interval than that in which they found themselves.

Rather surprisingly in view of the run of the play, they were two goals ahead, secured by PEMBERTON in the 16th minute with a shot that Farmer caught and then lost possession of the ball after he had slipped, and CUMMINS with a hard drive that beat the unsighted Farmer after Turner had passed to him from a free kick.

Only a couple of other shots of note came from the Town before half-time but, afterwards, there was a different story.

Instead of the square, short pass, they began to use the quick through one and, immediately, the front line looked the potent force we know it can be.

Reward came quickly in the shape of a goal after 55 minutes by DAVIES, left with a smudge chance by Turner after Morton and Cullen had done the early work.

For a time the Forest were almost over-run by the Town's brilliance but there came a let-up in which the home team set back into the game for a spell, and 15 minutes from time WILSON raised fluttering hopes with a successful shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Fluttering and fleeting were all that these hopes proved to be, for the Town made certain that there would be no late disaster such as they have experienced before, by crowding on the pressure again.

Then it was that the fundamental weaknesses of the Forest defence were exposed, and in the space of a minute, first Morton, then Cullen, made openings for TURNER to score twice. Even then the Town were not done, and Turner all but completed what would have been one of the fastest hat-tricks on record.

ALL DEPARTMENTS DID WELL This was a match in which all departments of the Town team did their job most adequately. Honours went to the defence for their strong work when the eager Forest forwards were on the goalward path, and Bayham's handling of the ball throughout was masterly.

In greater form was the middle line, with Pemberton having perhaps his best game in the first team so far and standing out for his coolness and his accurate use of the ball. Owens, equal to every demand, being a tremendous barrier down the middle of the field, and the hard-tackling Shanks completed a half-back line in which much of the Town's strength was vested.

Behind them, Aherne, on his 20th appearance, was in complete command, and although Dunne was sometimes troubled by the speed of Small, his powers of recovery stood him in good stead.

When the forwards hit their best after the interval it was a brilliant best, in which they produced fine, forceful football and showed great finishing power.

Able led again by Morton, whose role was provider of chances rather than that of a opportunist in this match, they wormed this previously-sound Forest defence into mistakes.

Morton kept his line moving, and there was good support for him at inside-forward, with Cummins, Turner, and Turner again, a dangerous spearhead and doing much work in midfield as well.

In the second half they looked a different attack altogether, and there was a good response from the reserves, with a number of centres laying on a number of deliveries to Cullen showing a marked improvement on his previous appearance at outside-left.

Especially, he came through on the inside, great deal, and this proved to be dangerous move. NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Farmer; Whare, Thomas; Morley, McKinlay, Burkill; Moore Martin, Wilson, Cullen, Small.

LUTON TOWN: Bayham; Dunne, Aherne, Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Cullen.

Referee: A. W. Luty, Leeds Attendance: 11,793.

HAD TO WAIT FOR THEIR REWARD

Vauxhall Better Than Score Shows

Vauxhall Motors 2, Hoddesdon Town 1. Attractive football brought Vauxhall no dividend until after the interval of this Spartan League match. They eventually won 2-1, but that was not a true reflection of their superiority.

In the first half, the Motors' forwards combined well but they could not break through the Hoddesdon goalkeeper, who was in good form.

Chambers's experience was a great asset and one of his first-half moves deserved a goal. In a brilliant run he beat four defenders and then passed to Gregory. The young inside-right got in