

DOWNFALL CAUSED BY SIMPLE GOALS

Baynham In Astonishing "Whistle" Incident

By Chiltern

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 2, LUTON TOWN 1

An astonishing incident in the 13th minute in which Baynham was the central figure brought a strange goal to Plymouth that tipped the scales against the Town in this match which was of vital importance to both teams.

The crowd stood aghast when Baynham, after picking up a headed back pass by Jones, gently threw the ball straight at Davis, who had the presence of mind to land it into the net and leave the asking of any necessary questions until afterwards.

Baynham was under the impression that the referee had blown his whistle to give the Town a free-kick and explained this to the official when, after awarding a goal, he came running up to discover what it was all about.

The referee assured Baynham that he had not stopped the game and the theory afterwards was that the goalkeeper must have heard a whistle being used in a match which was taking place just outside Home Park.

So, in the luckiest possible fashion, Plymouth were a goal up just at a stage when it did their confidence most good and the joy of these home fans, whose enthusiasm is at fever pitch again following the arrival of Jack Rowley, knew no bounds when DAVIS scored again 10 minutes later.

Again, the unfortunate Baynham was deeply involved in the scoring of it, for it was against him for carrying the ball too far that the referee awarded Plymouth a free-kick inside the penalty area.

Rowley back-heeled the ball to DAVIS, who promptly banged away at goal straight at Baynham, who had it covered all the way, caught it and then allowed it to slip out of his grasp. Tantalisingly, it dropped and bounced over the line.

TOWN WERE SHAKEN

Naturally enough, this turn of events shook the Town after a promising sort of start and it was an uphill battle that they fought, especially as they lost touch for a long time.

The position should have been improved materially when, after Shortt had also been penalised for carrying, Cummins cleverly found Morton, who shot over the bar from less than 10 yards.

Hopes of saving at least a point revived when three minutes after half-time, MORTON made no mistake about accepting a chance after a bad defensive mix-up, but Plymouth clung grimly on to their lead and also made a series of raids on their own account.

Main excitement in the match was reserved for the closing stages when the Town, moving in their best style for almost the first time, caused the home defence to make mistakes and were unlucky not to equalise when a shot from Adam was deflected on to the bar and when Langman all but turned the ball into his own net from a low cross by Turner.

Though at times there was some neat mid-field play by the Town, much of it took too long to develop, and there was quite a lot of back passing which was unnecessary.

The fast, direct methods that so shook Nottingham Forest, Hull City and Rotherham were largely missing, and the front line seldom

looked as dangerous as we know they can be.

After having a knock on the knee early on, Cummins was little in the picture, and his scheming was badly missed. Turner, too, had a quiet game, being closely watched by McJarrow, and received few chances of increasing his goals tally.

Morton became dangerous in the second half, when he made a number of solo efforts, and would have done better earlier on had he not got rid of the ball so quickly and had he tried taking it up to Langman.

On the other hand, Cullen held the ball too long when the situation cried out for the quick pass, and Adam, perhaps feeling his way a little after his longish absence, did not make the utmost use of his speed.

Without Owen the defence did not look so solid, and his influence was missed.

While he did nothing seriously wrong, Jones cannot command the middle of the field as Owen does. He used the ball well when it was on the ground, but was often in difficulty when it was in the air.

There were consistent displays from Pemberton, one of the few



JIM PEMBERTON

was in good form at Plymouth.

to reach top form, and Shanks, and Dunne and Aherne also came through well.

For Baynham, this was an occasion he will want to forget as speedily as possible, but apart from the way in which the goals came, he was safe, and the way in which he threw himself at the feet of an oncoming forward on several occasions showed that the stitches in his ear had not affected his confidence.

Possibly the drastic change in conditions, with the Town having to face a firm pitch and a lively ball after the mud-bath at Derby, provided some excuse for a below-par display, and they took a long time to adjust themselves.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: Shortt; Ratcliffe, Morgan; Tilley, Langman (P.), McJarrow; Davies, Willis, Davis, Rowley, Anderson.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Jones, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Adam.

Referee: B. M. Griffiths, Newport. Attendance: 25,995.