

RECOVERED AFTER LOSING THE LEAD

Turner's Leading Role In Town's Late Revival

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 4, PORT VALE 2

The uncertainty of football was never better demonstrated than at Kenilworth-road on Saturday when the Town, after putting themselves in a formidable position which they promised to improve materially, suddenly found that their advantage had disappeared in the short space of a quarter of an hour.

Until the Vale secured their first goal ten minutes after the interval, they had never threatened seriously to wipe out the Town's two-goals lead built up in the first half when they seemed to be coasting easily along.

First sign of the revival that was to bring a remarkable change in the game came when DONE, moving in from the right, beat Owen cleverly and drove the ball hard past Baynham.

Shortly afterwards, a mistake by Owen left Done with an even better chance, but with the angle narrowed by Baynham, he could not do more than hit the outside of the post.

This was a jittery period for the Town defence, and when they yielded again in the 70th minute, when GRIFFITHS found himself with the ball in an open space in front of goal, it seemed as if a precious point might be thrown away.

However, this worsening of the position seemed to act as a tonic to the Town, who were ahead again five minutes later, the result of a brilliant run by Turner, who laid on an easy opening for MacEWAN to apply the finishing touch.

Three minutes later TURNER struck again with a successful header from a neat cross by Shanks, who had somehow got himself into the inside-right position and the game had changed as dramatically as it had the other way earlier on.

CUNLIFFE MISSED BADLY

Even then the Vale were not finished completely, for had Cunliffe accepted an easy chance instead of lifting the ball too high, the Town might have been hard pressed in the late stages to hold on to their lead.

In the end, though, there was no doubt that victory went to the more able side, and the changes which looked something of a gamble on paper, brought about the desired improvement in attack.

Although Watkins has played better at inside-left, he made good use of the ball, and with Pemberton filling in on the wing for the first time for a couple of years, and doing an excellent job, there was more strength on the left flank than has been the case for some weeks.

Recall of MacEwan paid off handsome dividends, too, for he led the line intelligently, linking up with his inside-forwards and was a constant source of worry to the visiting defence with his harassing tactics.

The added directness that the new set-up brought suited Turner, who was the man who turned the tide for the Town when the circumstances looked none too propitious and he was constantly probing away at the defence.

It was TURNER who gave the Town the lead after 10 minutes when he beat King from a pass by DAVIES, who had the distinction of heading the second goal from a corner by Pemberton. Davies's part in these two goals earned him credit marks even though he was not very consistent.

MORTON DID NOT SETTLE DOWN

Apart from the shaky spell they had for about 20 minutes when Port Vale did the damage, the defence seemed perfectly capable of holding a forward line that did not show much thrust all through the first half.

One of the troubles was that Morton did not settle down at right-half, which is not to be wondered at after his long spell in the forward line, and he probably needed this game in which to re-adjust himself to the change.

Owen had rather a lot of covering to do and was drawn out of the middle by Done rather more than is usual for

him, with the result that unexpected gaps appeared.

Yet, on the whole, Owen made a good job of holding the experienced Done, but the most successful member of the middle line was Shanks, who gave a clever, non-stop display.

There was more threat to the Town from the left wing than the right for, on the latter, Shanks and the hard-tackling Aherne were much in the ascendancy.

However, Dunne came through successfully despite having quite a lot of extra work thrown upon him and Baynham gave another highly confident and capable display.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, MacEwan, Watkins, Pemberton.

PORT VALE: King; Turner, Potts; Mullard, Cheadle, Sproson; Askey, Smith, Done, Griffiths, Cunliffe.

Referee: E. S. Oxley, Pontefract. Attendance: 16,700.