

THROWN OUT OF GEAR

**BURNLEY 3,
LUTON TOWN 1**

Without any doubt at all, the result in this game on Monday turned on the equaliser which Burnley obtained a minute before the interval and which restored confidence that had been flagging after they had had a setback.

Just as the Town must have been congratulating themselves inwardly on reaching half-time with a goal lead, there was a quick breakaway which turned defence into decisive attack.

McIlroy made a down-the-middle pass that Owen, perhaps slipping slightly on the greasy turf, could not reach and McKAY snapped up the ball to make a clear run for goal.

Baynham came out in desperate fashion, but the young centre-forward, who was making only his fifth appearance in the League side, kept his head like a veteran and carefully placed the ball wide of the goalkeeper before he could make the angle impossible.

In the scoring of this, there was a clear case of lack of covering in defence, but the whole thing happened with dramatic suddenness.

DESERVED THE SUCCESS

Not that Burnley did not deserve to be on terms at the interval. They had earned that and more for the way in which they tore in from the start, intent on bringing to an end their dismal home record of not having scored a goal in 180 minutes football before their own fans.

Desperation to do something about this state of affairs was combined with speed and accuracy of passing, with every man in the team going in to meet the ball and showing great determination.

The pattern of the game was shown in the early minutes when Burnley swept to the attack and could have had an early lead had their marksmanship been better.

However, the Town survived the storm, and when they had the chance showed that they had much more accurate ideas about where the goal lay than the home forwards.

There were great efforts by Morton, Shanks, Turner and Cummins which might very well have counted before the Town shook Burnley by taking the lead in 31 minutes when TURNER brilliantly accepted an opening provided by MacEwan.

It was after this that the Town played their best football, and then came that late goal to give Burnley a tonic.

WITHSTOOD PRESSURE

Heavy pressure had to be withstood by the Town early in the second half, and they seemed to be safely over the worst when along came a high centre from Gray to which McKAY beat Dunne, and the ball went off the top of his head just under the bar, with Baynham misjudging the flight.

Not until the closing stages did the Town look as if they might save a point, but hope left when McKAY completed a hat-trick five minutes from the end with a shot that struck the inside of the post and went in off Baynham's leg.

Just after that, Turner should have narrowed the margin when he broke through, but McDonald came out and managed to deflect the ball wide.

The hard, speedy tactics adopted by Burnley threw the Town right out of gear, and I think it will be found that they will do much better against the teams that rely on pure football rather than one of this type.

There was never any hesitation when they went into the tackle and the attacks were mounted with quick passes that were difficult to combat. Certainly, there was some robustness about the home team's play, but this was a match they just had to win or be faced with a further decline in their support.

DANGEROUS WINGERS

The wingers had both Dunne and Aberne worried and there was not the usual solid look about the defence, for Owen was frequently pulled out of the middle and McKay would not have found so much scope had Owen been able to patrol his usual beat in the penalty area.

Morton and Shanks strove desperately to stem the tide, but, except for somewhat rare periods of varying length, Burnley kept the initiative they took from the start, though I still think they would have been in trouble could the Town have turned around in the lead.

Baynham should have done better in dealing with the header that brought the second goal, but he again made some fine saves, despite the difficulties presented by the greasy ball.

With not the support they have been enjoying, the forwards found difficulty in getting out of the grip of the home defence, but there was some neat football from them in midfield, mostly during the first half.

Because of the way the game went, Cummins had to concern himself a lot with defence, and Turner, showing signs of returning form, looked the most dangerous of the Town forwards.

Neither winger found much room for manoeuvre against grim-tackling opponents, and although MacEwan fought hard, the chances that came his way were few and Cummings was a solid barrier.

BURNLEY: McDonald; Rudham, Winton; Adamson, Cummings, Shannon; Gray, McIlroy, McKay. Cheesebrough, Pilkington.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aberne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, MacEwan, Cummins, Groves.

Referee: F. B. Coultas, Hull.
Attendance: 19,350.