

# LIMELIGHT ON BAYNHAM

## All Critics Praised Town

National newspaper critics had two main themes on Sunday, when referring to Luton's great fight at Birmingham.

The first, obviously, was the fighting spirit and football skill of a team, which, three hours earlier, had been involved in a road accident, and the second was the brilliance of newly-capped goalkeeper Ron Baynham.

This is what they said:  
"Hats off to Luton! They arrived at Birmingham shaken, bruised and battered because their coach had crashed . . . but they battled to a great draw . . . and Ron Baynham demonstrated to his home-town crowd why he has been chosen as England's new goalkeeper."—Sunday Express.

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"Despite being involved in a road crash on their way to Birmingham, Luton Town played fine, imaginative football while Baynham, their goalkeeper, showed he fully deserves his new England cap."—Sunday Chronicle.

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"They should know what good goalkeepers are at Birmingham—they've seen enough of them. So when the crowd rose to applaud Luton's saviour, Ron Baynham, at the end of this in-and-out game it was no empty tribute.—The People.

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"Ron Baynham will not let England down when he makes his international debut against Denmark in Copenhagen . . . The circumstances made this draw one of Luton's best efforts since moving into Division I with Birmingham this season."—The Sunday Dispatch.

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"Luton players, badly shaken in a coach crash on their way to Birmingham, showed no ill-effects from their ordeal, and their fine defence, which seemed to pin-point danger in the most unexpected places, earned a point. Man of the match was Birmingham-born Ron Baynham."—Reynolds News.

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"From start to finish, with centre-forward MacEwan suffering from a head injury and winger Michael Cullen with a bandaged arm, Luton played cultured, well-ordered football . . . Birmingham-born Ron Baynham proved how worthy he is of his England cap."—News of the World.

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"Baynham's play was an inspiration to his colleagues for they had been involved in a coach crash on their way to the ground. They showed little sign of it in their play."—Sunday Pictorial.

# GREAT FIGHT AFTER DASH FROM CRASH

## Badly Shaken Town Held Their Bogey Opponents

By Chiltern

### BIRMINGHAM CITY 0, LUTON TOWN 0

If the Town had managed to achieve this result on their bogey ground in normal circumstances, then all their supporters would have been satisfied, but to do so only a few hours after being involved in a road crash in which several of the players received superficial injuries and all were shaken up was doubly creditable.

To hold Birmingham to a draw, they had to make an all out fight for the whole of the 90 minutes of a gruelling match in which close marking and hard tackling was the keynote.

Taxis had to be sent from Warwick, some 10 miles from the scene of the accident, and after a hurried lunch the players made another rush by taxi for the remaining 21 miles to Birmingham.

When they arrived at the ground they had little more than 20 minutes in which to prepare for the match, but the way in which they began did not suggest that they had been involved in trouble.

Turner twice went near to giving them the lead in the early stages, but gradually Birmingham settled down to exert the more consistent pressure, only to find the Town defence in rock-like, unyielding mood.

### A BRILLIANT SAVE

There was nothing better in the match than a brilliant save by Baynham, who threw himself to his left when a shot by Boyd was deflected and reached the ball one-handed near the foot of the post.

Both teams played some attractive football in midfield, but there was a tendency by both to make one pass too many and for the final pass to go astray.

On balance, the Town looked the better finishers with rather more limited opportunities, but Govan missed a couple of good chances of giving Birmingham the lead.

The second half was a pattern of the first, with two strong defences always looking unlikely to be broken down, and although Govan did get the ball into the net, the goal was disallowed for offside after the referee had consulted a linesman.

To a large extent, Birmingham played into the hands of the Town by their use of the high centre into the goalmouth, where Baynham, celebrating his selection for England, was in complete command.

Every time the ball came across, Baynham was there to make a clean catch, even when he was hemmed in by opponents and his was one of the most assured exhibitions seen on the St. Andrew's ground for some time.

If anyone wanted proof that Baynham is the right man for the England job, then here it was, and he thoroughly deserved the crowd's ovation and Merrick's handshake at the end.

### OWEN STOOD OUT

For him there was the best possible cover from a sound defence, in which Owen was again an outstanding figure who held Brown completely, and there was never more than a hint of danger when Birmingham tried to find a way down the middle.

Nor was there from the wing men, for Dunne and Aherne were both completely reliable, and with Morton and Shanks keeping close tabs on the various switches of Kinsey and Murphy, Birmingham found difficulty in reaching close quarters.

They looked most dangerous when Boyd was coming through with the ball, but the finish was never good enough to seriously worry the Town.

Nor did the Town forwards find it easy to reach shooting range against the capable home defence, in which Newman was very strong at centre-half, despite the fact that MacEwan was an all-out trier and had to be carefully watched despite the fact that he had received a gash on the head in the crash.

If a goal were to come it looked most likely that Turner would provide it, for he was always there or thereabouts, but although Cummins got through a great deal of work his passes tended to go adrift.

On this occasion Cullen was the more successful winger, and he brought himself much into the game during the second half by going to seek the ball in the middle of the field.

Adam, however, was way below his form of the previous Saturday, and could only rarely escape the grip of Hall.

This was a result that no one was brave enough to foresee a

couple of hours before the start, and it was a courageous effort by the Town that will be remembered.

BIRMINGHAM CITY: Merrick; Hall, Badham; Boyd, Newman, Warhurst; Astall, Kinsey, Brown, Murphy, Govan.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, MacEwan, Cummins, Adam.

Referee: J Powell, Mexborough.

Attendance: 31,000.