

KIND WORDS FOR THE TOWN AGAIN

Although they were defeated for the second consecutive week when they lost 3-1 at Old Trafford, Luton again came in for some kind words from the national newspaper critics who were unanimous in their opinion that Manchester did not deserve to win by a two goals margin. The two Manchester evening papers praised Luton's play, too.

This is what some of the critics said:

"At one stage of the game the up-and-coming Busby youngsters looked a ragged and downhearted lot. Luton had soon shown their robust intentions and deservedly went ahead from a penalty. For Luton... this match was disappointing. They had a fair share of the play and did as much of the attacking as United."—"News of the World."

"It was unfair to such grand defenders as Bob Morton, Sid Owen and Wally Shanks that they found themselves on the losing side. They played brilliantly throughout."—"Sunday Pictorial."

"Manchester United were very lucky to win so handsomely against Luton Town. For an hour there was only one team in it and Luton deserved more than a penalty in the 20th minute. Their football, and particularly their approach work, often had the United defence at full stretch... but Luton need not be disappointed about this defeat for their football was rich in promise."—"Sunday Chronicle."

"Manchester United were flattered by their goal margin against Luton Town. Except for a brilliant three-minute period when they scored a couple of their goals, they were never so superior as the score would suggest."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"Luton did not deserve to lose so decisively. They were never two goals inferior."—"Reynolds News."

"United's passes and forwards fell continually into a mantrap formed by Owen and his mighty wing-halves, Morton and Shanks. These three looked strong enough to take Luton to a shock victory."—"Sunday Express."

"Luton moved extremely well in the first half, with Morton and Shanks two impressive half-backs."—"The People."

"Manchester United put up a very indifferent performance against a brilliant Luton side. Two bad minutes in Luton's defence cost them dearly. Promoted Luton soon gave United supporters a sample of the kind of football that has enabled them to settle so quickly in the First Division."—"Manchester Evening Chronicle."

"There was no doubt about it. Luton had developed into a most workmanlike combination."—"Manchester Evening News."

OPPORTUNISM WAS DECIDING FACTOR

Town Needed Punch To Round Off Good Football

By Chiltern

MANCHESTER UNITED 3, LUTON TOWN 1

This was one occasion when virtue went unrewarded, for the Town played such good football that they earned a "best team we have met this season" tag from United chief, Matt Busby.

There is no doubt at all that they should have gained a point, but, to a certain extent, they had only themselves to blame because they lacked finishing power and, in the end, victory went to the team that had the better opportunists.

What would have happened but for that accidental kick in training that made Turner an onlooker, can only be a matter of conjecture but, judging by the way in which chances cropped up, I am certain that Wood would have had a far busier afternoon than he did.

Groves is a trier and has plenty of pure football in him, but he was not geared up to the speed required against this sort of opposition, and he tended to slow down the line which has depended a lot on quick thrusts from Turner.

For a long time, though, the Town seemed to be steering towards victory, for they were the better team in the first half and crossed over holding a slender lead obtained by CUMMINS from the penalty spot.

ADAM WAS BROUGHT DOWN

It happened in the 18th minute when Adam was brought down heavily by Goodwin and Cummins, taking his first penalty for the Town, scored with a perfectly-placed shot.

All the speed and switching of the United forwards failed to have any effect on the Town defence, and the home team had only one really clear-cut chance before the interval when Taylor spooned the ball over from close in.

Early play in the second half suggested that the Town would go on to increase their grip on the game, but the goal that they needed to consolidate the position did not come, and then surprising things began to happen.

For the first time in the match, United cut a way down the middle and WEBSTER, chasing a through pass, beat Stretton to the ball and scored comfortably to put his team on terms after 54 minutes.

That did not affect the trend of the game materially, for the Town still looked the better-balanced side, but they were shaken by two goals in two minutes.

First came after 65 minutes when Dunne did not intercept a centre from Berry which Pegg collected, then rounded the full-back and brought the ball along the dead line.

He pulled it back to Webster, who shot as he was tackled and,

although Owen managed to take some pace off the ball, TAYLOR was on the spot to walk the ball over the line.

Two minutes later, TAYLOR was a scorer again, this time heading through a centre from Berry at which Stretton dived, but could not reach.

That the Town had the capacity to fight back after such a shock is creditable and they gave the United defence some uncomfortable moments without being able to reduce the arrears.

Much clever work by the attack was not allied to punch in finishing and with Cummins



TOMMY TAYLOR
Manchester United centre-forward who scored two of his side's goals on Saturday.

the midfield craftsman, starting attacks with accurate passes, there was need for drive and power in the other inside positions.

This Groves could not supply and that left MacEwan as something of a lone spearhead. In the first half he was much in the grip of Jones, but by dint of moving about, he had more scope later and he used the ball quite well.

STRONG MIDDLE LINE

Cullen contrived to give Bent, stand-in for the international, Byrne, quite a lot of trouble and cut out a lot of openings, and Adam, with the beating of Foulkes, always carried a threat, though this did not always develop beyond potentiality.

The short, sticky patch when the damage was done apart, the defence was impressive with hard tackling and good covering and there was a solid foundation in the half-back line where Owen was very strong; Shanks worked for the whole 90 minutes and Morton reached his best and most commanding form in the second half.

Aherne was the better full-back, although after the interval he did not have the complete grip on Berry that he had obtained earlier, and Dunne became more worried by Pegg as the game wore on.

Aherne's tackling was most forthright but Dunne tended to do too much jockeying instead of making a challenge for the ball.

All three goals came from short range, but I thought Stretton erred when the first came. Otherwise, he was competent enough on his return to the first team.

MANCHESTER UTD: Wood; Foulkes, Bent; Whitefoot, Jones, Goodwin; Berry, Blanchflower, Taylor, Webster, Pegg.

LUTON TOWN: Stretton; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Groves, MacEwan, Cummins, Adam.
Referee: W. Hesilton West Hartlepool. Attendance: 34,409.