

NO ACID, ALL PRAISE, THIS WEEK

After their defeat at Bolton on October 29, Luton Town had some harsh things said about them by the national newspaper critics. But after Saturday's great performance the critics shook the acid off their pens and were lavish in their praise.

Bob Morton had a wonderful "Press" and several writers considered that on this form he would be the answer to England's centre-forward problem.

While Morton received the lion's share of the praise, the team as a whole received "bouquets" galore and Ron Baynham was compared favourably with his Wolverhampton counterpart, Bert Williams.

Here is a selection of "quotes":

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"How did Luton record their best win in the First Division? With exactly the same high-grade, fast-moving and sure-shooting soccer that made Wolves the team of last season . . . Wolves had no answer to these tactics when used against them."—"News of the World."

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"Morton gave Wright such a run around that Luton should play him regularly at centre-forward so that the England problem in that position is finally solved. A strong, natural player with an opportunist sense rarely seen in contemporary centre-forwards, he has all England needs against Spain at the end of this month."—"Sunday Graphic."

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"Luton played a brand of football which had the illustrious Wolves wavering from the start. Few teams in the country could have stood up to this great forward line. And the man who added punch and 'devil' to the Luton attack was Bob Morton, wing-half-cum-centre-forward."—"Sunday Express."

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"What an inspiration it was of Luton manager Dally Duncan to restore Bob Morton to centre-forward! Morton certainly added punch to the line, distributed the ball reasonably well and was on the spot to take goal chances."—"The People."

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"Morton, on the fringe of international honours as a wing-half, played brilliantly. He was the inspiration of a great Luton attack."—"Reynolds News."

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"It is a saying in football circles that a really good forward makes a clever half-back. In this game the adage was reversed, for most of Luton's success came from the promotion of Bob Morton, right-half-back contender for an England place, to lead the attack."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"This was almost Luton's finest hour and a half."—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"I have never enjoyed a game more."—"Daily Express."

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"Luton's victory . . . was the reward of swift and spirited football. They might have beaten any team in the country on the sodden Kenilworth-road pitch, the dainty tapping Dynamos included."—"News Chronicle."

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"Black-haired Bob Morton, with the build of a dreadnought and the speed and manoeuvrability of a corvette, is something of an English John Charles. He can play anywhere."—"Daily Mail."

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"Luton were just eleven chums. Busy, sharp, knowing where they were going. And going there very fast indeed. Wolves were over-run."—"Daily Mirror."

MORTON CAUSED A TRANSFORMATION

High-Powered Attack Was Too Much For Wolves

By Chiltern

55/56

LUTON TOWN 5, WOLVES 1

Not until a couple of days before this memorable occasion did Manager Dally Duncan finally decide to do what has been in his mind for some time, and switch Morton into the attack as leader.

That decision had much to do with one of the brightest pages in the long history of the Town club being written, for he brought new power and punch into the front line and gave England's captain, Wright, one of the most uncomfortable matches he has had for a long time.

In fact, so effective was Morton that his display may well have begun a new train of thought at the Football Association headquarters, especially as England team manager, Walter Winterbottom, was there to see it.

Also holding a watching brief were representatives of Moscow Dynamo weighing up the strength of Wolves, their opponents of last evening.

What they saw must have given them a deal of encouragement, for it was the Town who were the faster, more cohesive and more powerful combination.

Perhaps Wolves were unlucky to catch the Town in this tremendous form, which would have been too good for any team in the country, and their other misfortune was that Swinbourne pulled a thigh muscle with the game only a couple of minutes old, and that affected his mobility for the remainder of the game.

DEFENCE CREAKED, THEN CRACKED

Not that, in all probability, that had so much effect on the result as some writers would lead us to believe, for it was the Wolves' defence that creaked and finally cracked before the onslaught.

The excitement began in the fourth minute, when MORTON celebrated his return to the attack with a goal by finishing off a

Fighting back, Wolves reached equality in the 18th minute, when HANCOCKS crashed in a terrific shot that simply flew into the far corner of the net, but the Town continued to be the more thrustful team, and they deservedly regained the lead three minutes from half-time through TURNER following a free kick by Cummins.

GOAL DISALLOWED

Shock of the ball landing in the Town net from Swinbourne just after the resumption dissolved into relief when a linesman gave an offside decision, and it was after this that the Town really struck peak form.

In the space of 11 minutes, beginning in the 69th, they scored three times, and, in addition, Adam struck a post.

Showing brilliant anticipation, MORTON nipped in to collect a back pass that Shorthouse meant for Williams and had the ball in the net in a trice.

A minute later, TURNER kept going when Wolves waited for offside and although he became badly angled, had time to turn around before hitting the ball through.

Then CULLEN completed the hectic spell by flicking with his head a centre by Shanks and the ball got in near the angle of the woodwork.

ATTACK HAD GREAT DAY

Morton apart, and his strength, speed and accurate distribution made him the focal point of the front line, the attack as a whole, had a great day.

With Morton alongside him, Turner lived up to the big reputation he has earned as a marksman and the dual spearhead of these two players should bring the Town plenty of goals, especially if Cummins continues to lay on openings in the brilliant manner of Saturday.

This looked a perfectly balanced inside trio and there was fine response from the wingers, with Cullen always a worry to Shorthouse and Adam having the beating of Showell from the start to finish.

This was more like Adam's best form, though he did not always part with the ball at the psychological moment.

PEMBERTON'S SUCCESS

Any doubt there might have been about the right-half position was speedily removed by the way in which Pemberton settled down and, on this showing, there has been no weakening of the middle line.

With Owen and Shanks, he formed a solid foundation that held the Wolves inside forwards and also gave good support to their own attack.

Main threat to the Town was always contained in the liveliness of the wingers, which was cut down considerably by Dunne and Aherne, and Baynham's handling of the greasy ball was so good that he should have made certain of a place against Spain.

Considering the difficulty posed by the heavy conditions, the Town gave a first-class display of fast, direct football that should now ensure them a capacity crowd whenever they play at home.

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

WOLVES: Williams; Showell, Shorthouse; Slater, Wright, Broadbent; Hancocks, Mason, Swinbourne, Wilshaw, Mullen.

Referee: A. E. Moore, Lowestoft.

Attendance: 27,911 (record for a League match).



"Goalkeeper's eye-view" of Bob Morton, who scored twice against the Wolves.

movement which he himself started and in which Cullen and Adam had a hand.

Swinbourne was off the field at the time, but returned immediately afterwards with his thigh strapped, and after a spell on the right wing went back into the middle.