

Other Critics Said:

TOWN DID NOT ADAPT THEMSELVES

After seeing Luton fall 4-0 in the mud and snow at Newcastle, national newspaper critics were unanimous about two things. First, Luton are a good footballing side; secondly, they failed to adapt their game to the atrocious conditions, and were beaten by a team which moved the ball about as much as possible.

They agreed, too, that for the greater part of the game there was little to choose between the sides, but they were full of praise for Newcastle's whirlwind finish, in which they scored three goals in 10 minutes.

Here are some "quotes":

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"Luton looked a beautiful football team which could not quite act on the heavy going, yet they left a splendid impression." — *Sunday Chronicle* and *Empire News*.

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"In the second half Dally Duncan's boys did try making the ball do the work for a spell, and it so demoralised the Newcastle defence that Turner found himself on the goal-line facing an empty net In the 80th minute, Luton were still struggling gallantly for a draw and then it happened." — *"Sunday Express."*

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"Worse luck for Luton, here it was again—Newcastle's famous last-minute rally. And it came after Luton had found a way to fight back and threaten to make a draw of it." — *"The People."*

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"It was the wide-flung passes among the Newcastle forwards that decided the game. Luton's tip-tap methods got them nowhere." — *"News of the World."*

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"Luton's trouble was that they did everything the wrong way. Their football was cramped and niggung, and they dogged about in the mud, flicking the ball to a man five yards away, only to see it stop after three yards." — *"Sunday Dispatch."*

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"But this was no walk-over. It looks as if Luton . . . cannot easily snap out of a dry-grounds groove, which made them one of the magnet sides of the season, but they pleased greatly, even in heavy defeat." — *"Newcastle Sunday Sun."*

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"Luton were as good as their opponents until the home team put the issue beyond doubt with one of their typical 'daft' spells—10 minutes in which they got three goals." — *"Sunday Post."*

COMPLIMENTS WERE SMALL CONSOLATION

Result Gave No Idea Of The Course Of The Game

By Chiltern

NEWCASTLE UNITED 4, LUTON TOWN 0

COMPLIMENTARY remarks about what a fine footballing side you are do not bring much solace to a team that has been drubbed, however undeservedly, for, unfortunately, in these competitive days, acquisition of points is the thing that counts.

Certainly, the Town played some fine football at St. James's Park on Saturday, much of it misguidedly close in the terrible conditions but, even so, they came a good deal closer to holding the United to a draw than a mere glance at the score would indicate.

Not until the last 10 minutes, when there was an amazing burst of scoring that brought Newcastle three goals, could the home team afford to view the situation with any sort of confidence, and they had been lucky to be able to retain their single-goal lead until that stage.

That had come in the tenth minute, when a free kick by Pemberton was intercepted and the ball was passed to CURRY, who hit in a terrific drive from the edge of the penalty area, and the ball got in just inside the angle of the woodwork.

Although they had a fair share of the first-half play, it was only rarely that the Town looked likely to score, and mostly their movements took too long in which to develop, and there was not sufficient shooting from reasonable range.

On the other hand, Newcastle showed a better appreciation of the conditions, moved the ball hard and generally made themselves look the more dangerous side.

"SHOULD NOT PLAY"

Before the match, both the Town Chairman and Manager said quite forcibly that, in their opinion, the pitch was not fit for the match to start.

The turf was covered by a mixture of snow, ice, mud and surface water, and they regarded as a danger bits of ice which had been broken up. However, by then the gates were open, the referee had already decided to play, and the only concession they gained was that the loose ice was shovelled away.

To make matters worse, heavy rain fell throughout the first half, and then, as if to give the Town a sample of everything, there was heavy snow through the second period.

After the interval the Town switched their wingers, and

straight away, with more direct methods and exploitation of the down-the-middle pass, they had the Newcastle defence in trouble.

Turner looked a certain scorer when he aimed at an empty net, but the ball stuck in the mud inches from the line, and then Shanks seemed to have equalised with a great drive until a despairing leap by Simpson enabled him to make a magnificent one-handed save.

For quite a long time, there was heavy and persistent Town pressure, interspersed only by snap Newcastle raids which always looked dangerous.

NEWCASTLE REGAINED GRIP

However, as time wore on the equaliser failed to arrive, Newcastle, the stronger team physically and with no mid-week Cup tie behind them, gradually regained their grip on the situation, but no one could have expected the happenings of the last 10 minutes.

The second goal arrived shortly after Baynham had been badly shaken up. Mitchell crossed the ball low, Baynham, Kelly and KEEBLE all went for it together and it finished in the back of the net.

Officially, the goal was credited to Keeble, but, in point of fact, it flew in off Kelly's foot as he tried to kick away.

Two minutes later, there was further disaster when a clearance rebounded to DAVIES who made no mistake from close range and then, with only a minute remaining, the Town's cup of sorrow overflowed when Mitchell laid on a chance for KEEBLE.

The result gives not the slightest idea of the course of the game, but Newcastle won because they were stronger and because they accepted their scoring chances.

BAYNHAM KEPT BUSY

Because they were always more willing to shoot, Baynham had a busier time than Simpson and he was injured twice in making desperate saves. His was a most courageous exhibition and, at the end, Simpson went right up into the Town's half to congratulate him.

Doubts about whether Kelly could be a successful stand-in for Owen were removed by the confident way in which he tackled the job and he came through an ordeal very creditably.

Until the closing stages the defence looked compact and covered well, with Dunne having a good game against Mitchell and Aherne coping quite well despite the speed of Milburn.

More successful of the wing-halves was Shanks, though Pemberton worked hard and willingly, but the short passing was used in the middle line as well as in the attack.

Neither Cummins nor Cullen could get on in these conditions, so unsuited to their style of play. Both tended to hang on too long and to keep the ball too close and much of the forwards' football, though looking clever in midfield did not amount to a great deal in terms of shooting.

In this direction, Turner probably did more than anybody, but it was Morton who might have turned the scales in this match had the down-the-middle material been provided more regularly.

Pearce was a hard fighter who does not really look suited to the extreme wing and it would have been a good idea to have given him a spell inside.

NEWCASTLE UNITED: Simpson; Woolard, McMichael; Stokoe, Paterson, Casey; Milburn, Davies, Keeble, Curry, Mitchell.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Kelly, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Pearce.

Referee: T. L. Wood, Bury. Attendance: 21,412.