

WILL TOWN DECIDE ON CHANGES?

STILL UNHAPPY IN MUDDY CONDITIONS

The Forwards Draw Their Third Consecutive Blank

By Chiltern

THE injuries from Saturday's match to complicate the issue, the Town party of 14 players named on Friday—the team that lost to Birmingham, plus Jones, Groves and Davies—left Luton yesterday morning on the first stage of their trip to Spain, ready for their match in Barcelona on Thursday. Until the last minute was it certain that the Chairman, Mr. P. G. Mitchell, who has been a 'flu victim, would be able to travel, but he accompanied the team, along with fellow-Director Mr. Tom Hodgson, the Mayor and Mayoress and Manager Dally Duncan and Secretary Phil Coley.

Whether or not the Town manager contemplates making any changes in the team will not be known until he has had a chance of seeing the prevailing conditions, but the continued delay of the forward line to among the goals must be a matter of real concern to him.

The blank drawn on Saturday was the third in succession and was also the Town's second consecutive home defeat.

Once again, they did not suit the style of play to the heavy defence. Difficult though it must be to change tactics, it ought to have become crystal clear by now that passing just will not do in this mud.

Golden Chance To Make Experiments

CESTER, then Newcastle and now Birmingham proved at strength and forthright play in greater assets in heavy going than clever, cultured football and Birmingham were deserving winners, mainly because of their greater strength.

Whether or not, in view of the injuries, the Manager decides to cast his forward line, remains to be seen, but he has two golden opportunities this week to make experiments before the Town have resumed their League programme.

Many clubs rest clever ball players when the going is all rain, and it seems as if the consideration will have to be given to this if the mud makes with us.

Smith Was A Real Stumbling Block

COR the Town, there was sufficient of the play to have enabled them to end what is becoming a rather depressing run, but they did not work out their scoring openings in crisp enough style to break down the traditional Birmingham defence.

Too slavishly, they tried to force a way down the middle when it was obvious that the drier openings of the wings held out greater hope of success.

Especially was this the case as Smith, one of the most promising of the young players in this country, was such a stumbling block, with the result that Morton received few real chances.

Middle Line Was A Sound Barrier

THE whole of the Birmingham middle line formed a near-impenetrable barrier to the Town's dainty forward work, and was their extra strength in this department that enabled the visitors to retain their midfield superiority.

In a negligible, scrambling sort of match in which, during the first half, especially, there were a lot of petty offences and a deal too much whistle, the Town from either side did not really look like coming.

As the second half wore on a number of the goalless draw which was played at St Andrew's

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 0

BIRMINGHAM CITY .. 1

Brown

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Ahern; Pemberton, Kelly, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Morton; Cammies, Pearce.

BIRMINGHAM CITY: Merrick; Hall, Green; Boyd, Smith, Warhurst; Astall, Finney, Brown, Kinsey, Govan.

Referee.—J. Powell, Mx-borough. Attendance.—18,970.

which packed its penalty area most safely.

Inside Men Having Unhappy Time

CUMMINS just cannot get on in the mud and, again, it might have proved a good idea to have brought the stronger Pearce inside when defeat began to look a certainty.

Nor is Turner having a very happy time at the moment, for his play has a somewhat jaded look and, since his injury, he has not been the opportunist we know he can be.

With both inside-forwards bogged down, there was not the best of support for Morton, and one is tempted to wonder whether his driving power in the middle line would not be more valuable than his services at centre-forward in this sort of going.

Healthy Thumps Were Needed

WHILE Pemberton made some good interceptions, he is not so strong in the tackle as is Morton, and far too high a proportion of his passes went to an opponent.

A few healthy thumps at the ball would have been more valuable from this position than a lot of the short passing that came.

In fact, from very few of the Town players did we see the long pass used, and the conditions were simply crying out for it.

One cannot form any other conclusion than that Pearce's undoubted talents are wasted on the wing, but the meagre sup-



Gil Merrick, Birmingham's English international goalkeeper, did not have a lot to do on Saturday, but he had to be on the alert at times like this. In this picture he saves a centre from Cullen as Turner rushes in to challenge.

For Baynham there was fairly adequate cover, with Dunne doing a good job against Govan, and Ahern was safe enough on the other flank, while Shanks kept going in his usual style, but was another who did not hit his passes hard enough.

Reserves Have Had A Long Rest

THROUGH a combination of circumstances, the Town Reserves have not played at all this month and their match at South-end was postponed by mutual consent and by the consent of the Football Combination in view of their home Cup-tie next Saturday.

However, there should not be anything to prevent them from resuming their programme at Crystal Palace on Saturday when they will be playing their first match for nearly a month.

The "A" team have also been having a rest, for they have had no match since January 7, but they will have the advantage of playing one of their rare home games against Brighton "A" on Saturday.

Brown Blasted The Town's Hopes

HOWEVER, the Town's hopes of even one point were blasted in the 65th minute by the enthusiastic Brown, who fastened on to a through pass, outpaced Kelly and beat Baynham with a fierce cross shot.

The ball struck the inside of the post and rebounded into the net with Baynham having no chance.

It was an extremely well-taken goal by a leader who was always on the look-out for the snare opportunity, though Kelly put up a good show against him.

The rugged display of the young centre-half was one of the few cheering features about the Town team and although he is not in the Owen class yet, he looks like making an invaluable stand-in for the time the captain is out of the game.

Trouble Was In The Forward Line

MOSTLY, he refused to be lured out of the penalty area by the wandering of Brown, and he was hard and firm in the



When Cullen tried to beat Merrick to the ball in the first half he accidentally collided with the Birmingham goalkeeper who had to receive attention from his trainer before he was able to resume.

tackle, though there could have been improvement in his use of the ball.

Although not at its most solid in some departments, the defence was adequate, and it was forward where the main trouble lay.

Apart from the fact that the ball was kept too close, there was an element of "passed to you" when it came to shooting from reasonable range, and once again that one pass too many was made, usually with dire results against a close-covering defence

port that came his way did not give him much of a chance, and there was not a deal of service for Cullen, either.

Lack-Lustre Look About Forwards

OF the two, though, Pearce was the more direct, for Cullen held up things by keeping the ball too long.

Yet the latter came as near as anyone to scoring with a header from the centre-forward position that was only just wide.

But the front line as a whole wore a lack-lustre look, and certainly no-one would believe that it was substantially the same as the one which chalked up eight goals against Sunderland.

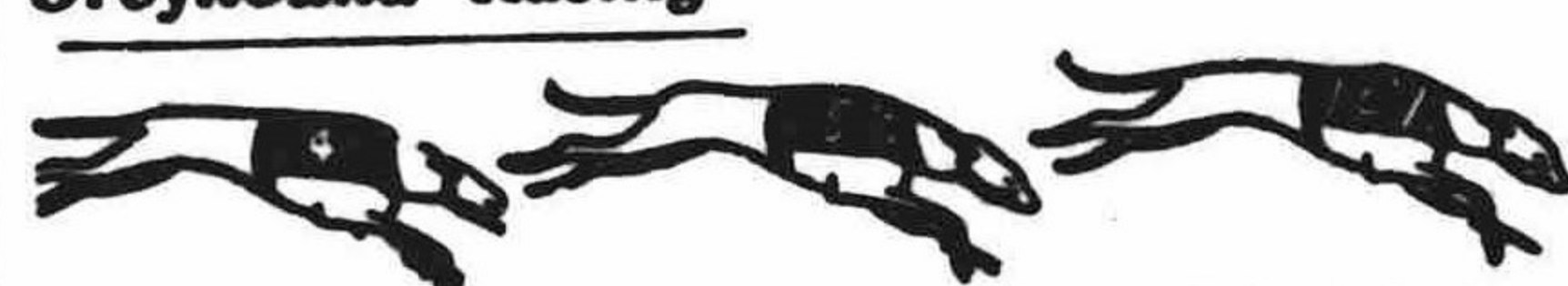
Conditions, we know, are largely to blame, but during the course of a winter, all types of pitches must be expected, and it is the team that most readily adapts itself to each differing set of circumstances that gets among the honours.

Some Great Saves By Baynham

BAYNHAM maintained his reputation as England's number one goalkeeper with a couple of saves that brought down the house and he had a more busy time than one of his predecessors in the England goal, Merrick.

There was a bit of anxiety when Baynham injured his shoulder in making a save in the first half, but he recovered quickly, as did Merrick, who was hurt as Cullen rushed in.

Greyhound Racing



FAVOURITES WON AND PUNTERS PROFITED

SIX favourites won at Luton Stadium on Saturday—a night on which many punters showed a profit.

There were two 5-1 successes, Parlez-Vous and Bright Light, but the former was involved in a dead-heat with the favourite, Sea Captain.

Trap four was the only one to draw a blank.

I. (410 yds).—1. SCAMP (6), reserve; 2. Foxlaw (4); 3. Billy Boy (2); 4. Still Waiting (5); 5. Twink (3); 6. Saucy Girl (1). 2, 1, head, 2, 3, 25.92. Non-runner Twiddle (6). Off 6.46.

Betting: 3-1 SCAMP, Still Waiting; 7-2 Saucy Girl; 4-1 Twink; 5-1 Billy Boy; 6-1 Foxlaw.

Forecast £2 1s. 6d.

II. (470 yds).—1. STEPHEN K. (2); 2. St. Clair (3); 3. Mitzi (4); 4. Sammy (5); 5. Brian's Pal (6); 6. Rosy (1). neck, 1, 2, 6, 29.14. Off 7.04.

Betting: 7-4 STEPHEN K.; 3-1 Mitzi; 4-1 Sammy; St. Clair; 7-1 Brian's Pal; 8-1 Rosy.

Forecast £1 1s.

III. (410 yds).—1. KENNY'S BOY (2); 2. Very Game (3); 3. Cabby (4); 4. Commercial (1); 5. Thunder (6); 6. Rabbit (5). 2, 3, 4, 1, 6, 5, 25.22. Off 7.24.

Betting: 7-4 KENNY'S BOY; 5-2 Very Game; 4-1 Cabby; Commercial; 10-1 Rabbit; Thunder.

Forecast 18s. 6d.

IV. (470 yds).—1. PARLEZ-VOUS (2) and SEA CAPTAIN (5), dead-heat; 3. Gold Leaf (3); 4. Tin Ribs (1); 5. Jogger (6); 6. Emgee (4), dead-heat, 3, 1, 6, 4, 25.22. Off 7.43.

Betting: 5-4 SEA CAPTAIN; 5-2 Jogger; 5-1 PARLEZ-VOUS; Tin Ribs; 6-1 Gold Leaf; 8-1 Emgee.

Forecasts 13s. 3d. and 10s. 3d.

V. (470 yds).—1. SPACER (3); 2. Stand Fast (2); 3. Patrick M. (6); 4. King Sol (5); 5. Match Box (1); 6. Tit-Bit (4). neck, 4, 1, 1, 28.48. Off 8.04.

Betting: 6-4 SPACER; 3-1 Stand Fast; 5-1 Patrick M.; Tit-Bit; Match Box; 10-1 King Sol.

Forecast 15s. 9d.

VI. (410 yds).—1. BRIGHT LIGHT (1); 2. Rudolph (3); 3. Kyme (2); 4. The Lodger (5); 5. Skipper (5); 6. Man (4). 1, 3, 2, 6, 5, 4, 25.4. Non-runner Airborne (6). Off 8.1.

Betting: 7-4 Rudolph; 5-2 Man; 5-1 BRIGHT LIGHT; Kyme; 6-1 Skipper; 100-8 The Lodger.

Forecast £3 14s. 3d.

VII. (470 yds).—1. STONY BEACH (1); 2. Lark (3); 3. Drummer Boy (6); 4. Jimmy's Li (5); 5. Not Fast (4); 6. Rover Tiro (2). 1, 3, 6, 5, 4, 2, 28.0. Off 8.43.

Betting: 2-1 STONY BEACH; Not Fast; 7-2 Lark; Drummer Boy; 8-1 Jimmy's Li; 10-1 Rover Tiro.

Forecast £1 7s. 6d.

VIII. (410 yds).—1. RODNEY (5); 2. Office Boy (6); 3. P. boy (1); 4. So Silly (2); 5. George (3); 6. Nagrom (4). 1, 2, 4, 2, 25.67. Off 9.01.

Betting: 6-4 Office Boy; RODNEY; 4-1 So Silly; George; 8-1 Playboy; Nagrom.

Forecast 16s. 9d.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

F.A. CUP, FOURTH ROUND

Arsenal v. Aston Villa

Barnsley v. Blackburn R.

Bolton v. Sheffield Utd.

Burnley v. Chelsea

Bristol R. v. Doncaster R.

Charlton Ath. v. Swindon T.

Fulham v. Newcastle Utd.

Leicester C. v. Stoke C.

Leyton O. v. Birmingham C.

Liverpool v. Scunthorpe Utd.

Port Vale v. Everton

Southend Utd. v. Manchester C.

Tottenham H. v. Middlesbrough

West Ham v. Portsmouth

West Ham v. Cardiff C.

York C. v. Sunderland

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v. Brighton

Colchester Utd. v. Shrewsbury T.

Exeter C. v. Walsall

Gillingham v. Crystal Palace

Millwall v. Aldershot

Norwich C. v. Southampton

Reading v. Northampton T.

Watford v. Q.P.R.

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v. Halifax T.

Barrow v. Bradford C.

Carlisle Utd. v. Oldham Ath.

Charlton v. Crewe Alex.

Darlington v. Wrexham

Gateshead v. Mansfield T.

Grimsby T. v. Workington

Rochdale v. Derby Co.

Southport v. Stockport Co.

Tranmere R. v. Hartlepool Utd.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Airdrieonians v. Rangers

Celtic v. Hearts

East Fife v. Falkirk

Hibernian v. Motherwell

Partick T. v. Kilmarnock

Queen of South v. Aberdeen

St. Mirren v. Clyde

Stirling A. v. Raith Rovers

DIVISION "B"

Arbroath v. Alloa

Ayr Utd. v. Albion R.

Berwick R. v. Stranraer

Brechin C. v. Dumbarton

East Stirling v. Montrose

Hamilton v. Morton

Stenhousemuir v. Forfar Ath.

St. Johnstone v. Queen's Park

Third Lanark v. Dundee Utd.

OTHER MATCHES

Bradford v. Rotherham Utd.

Brentford v. Notts Co.

Coventry C. v. Preston N.E.

Cowdenbeath v. Dunfermline

Hull C. v. Blackpool

Leeds Utd. v. Manchester Utd.

Lincoln C. v. Bury

Newtown v. Swanton T.

Sheffield Wed. v. Luton T.

Wolves v. San Lorenzo

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Arsenal, Bolton, Burnley, Leicester, Tottenham, Norwich, Accrington, Chesterfield, Grimsby, Southport.

FOUR AWAY: Newcastle, Brighton, Bradford C., Derby.

THREE DRAWS: Port Vale v. Everton; Colchester v. Shrewsbury; Tranmere v. Hartlepool.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS

FOR LUTON TO-NIGHT

7.30 (410 yds) 554 Awlyorone

Grasshopper, 46 Kingsway, 535

654 Nancy, 452 Princess, reserve

Lucky Jim.

7.48 (470 yds) 342 Bunter, 133

451 Jim Jake, 361 Legion, 123

Sue, 32, Tully San.

8.06 (410 yds) 25 Arm In Arm

Jeff, 215 Lucky Deal, 231 Queen

River Bank, 3 Storm, reserve 2

along.

8.24 (410 yds) 212 Billy Bear

Crackerjack, 426 Santa Maria,

Shallwyn, 455 St. Patrick, 53

flower, reserve 145 Mariner.

8.44 (470 yds) 42 Call Boy, 42

122 Gaf, 145 Lion's Head, 62

Chance, 513 Osram.

9.40 (410 yds) 325 Dale, 33 P.

Bosun, 1 Day Out, 5 Jaywick, 5

Millions, 314 Knocker.

9.22 (470 yds) 354 G.E.C., 12

Eleven, 553 Lucky Strike, 42 Mis

521 Old Coat, 121 The Po

reserve 216 Red Cross.

9.40 (410 yds) 325 Dale, 33 P.

532 Sabrina, 531 Scamp, 441 Su

544 Swannee, reserve 65 Squea

SELECTIONS

7.30 Kye (Nancy, Awlyorone)

7.48 Bunter (Tully San, Sunny

8.06 Lucky Deal (Arm In Arm

8.25 Shallwyn (Billy Bean, Wal

8.44 Lion's Head (Gaf, Flo)

9.04 Day Out (nap) (Knocke

Bubble)

9.22 The Porpoise (Less Eleva

Tibs)

9.40 Poacher (Sabrina, Susann

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