

# LATEST DEFEAT HAD ITS COMPENSATIONS

## SIGNS OF RETURN TO FORM BY TOWN

### Chances To Collect A Point Came Their Way

By Chiltern

THE record of the Town, with a Cup failure, followed by three consecutive League defeats by an aggregate of 8-1 makes depressing sort of reading but, although another setback came their way at The Hawthorns, West Bromwich, on Saturday, there were some encouraging signs of returning form.

Indeed, there were the opportunities for a point to be saved and when the finishing gets back to something like its previous standard, then points will begin to come the way of the Town again.

When the play on the snow-hard surface could be much of a farce, and it was much for the skill of both sides in difficult conditions, the Town produced so much in the first half that, Manager Dally Duncan was of the opinion that the Town had a good handicap was in their favour, which was a great possibility, and as a result conditions were heavily in favour of the Town and the man in possession of the ball. When three goals came in the first half, there was every indication that there would be a scoring riot, but the chances settled down and the Town, though both goals were escapes.

#### Setback Of Two Quick Goals

OR the Town there was the setback of conceding two quick goals in the opening phase

during which the defence was taking time to get used to the changed conditions, and for a quarter of an hour or so it had a very wide open look. In fact, the situation might have been worse but for a couple of great saves by Baynham from first Williams, then Lee, but he could do nothing about saving a shot from Griffin in the seventh minute.

Possibly because they were expecting Griffin to pass as he cut in, the Town defenders never made a real tackle on him, and Kelly was obviously keeping a weather eye on Barlow, who was in position for the pass. Instead, Griffin sold the dummy and crashed the ball past Baynham.

#### No Goalkeeper Expects This

WHEN Lee added to the lead in the twelfth minute, the Town's hopes were at rock

#### FOR THE RECORDS

WEST BROMWICH A... 3  
Griffin Lee Williams  
LUTON TOWN ..... 1  
Turner  
WEST BROMWICH A.:  
Sanders; Howe, Millard;  
Dunlop, Kennedy, Summers;  
Griffin, Setters, Barlow, Williams, Lee.  
LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne;  
Pearce, Kelly, Pemberton;  
Cullen, Turner, Morton;  
Cummins, Adams.  
Referee: J. W. Topliss.  
Grimsby. Attendance: 25,220.

bottom, and this was a curious goal, for the shot seemed to be going wide of the goal.

What best Baynham was the saviour of the ball, which then broke badly on the turf in front of him, and although he got one hand to it he could not prevent it going into the net.

In this instance, I think Baynham was more unlucky than blameworthy. For no goalkeeper expects the ball to do tricks of that sort.

What put the Town back in the game was a grand goal by Turner six minutes later when he headed into the corner of the net, wide of Sanders's grasping hands, a centre by Cullen, and that enabled the Town to settle down.

#### West Brom Had Their Narrow Escapes

THERE was tightening up in defence, more fluency in attack and the West Bromwich defenders began to discover just what problems the going posed.

Morton came nearest to being the means of the Town reaching equality, first with a centre that Sanders only prevented reaching Turner by a despairing leap, and then with a cross shot that beat Sanders and the far post as well. In a determined opening to the second half, Pearce nearly equalised with a deceptive lob that dropped on top of the bar and Morton was inches wide of the target from a pass by Turner.

But the best chance of putting his team on terms went to Adam who failed to profit from a mistake by Howe and Sanders was given time to snatch the ball away.

#### Williams Was Left With Easy Chance

THINGS looked a bit serious for the Town when Baynham and Aherne collided in preventing Lee reaching a through pass by Barlow but, happily, both were able to continue after having escaped.

West Brom also went near to scoring again, particularly from a free kick by Lee which Baynham saved one-handed.

Then, in the 79th minute came the goal that removed what hopes the Town had entertained of snatching a point.

Baynham went down to pick up a low shot by Lee, did not grasp the ball safely and it rolled out to Williams, who had the easiest task in the world of tapping it into the net.

Before that happened, Setters had had to switch to outside-right because of a pulled muscle.

#### Had The Chances To Gain A Point

EVEN then, the Town were not done with and Pearce brought the best out of Sanders; Morton hit the side net and, with a couple of minutes remaining, Cummins, from plumb in front of goal, sliced the ball badly wide when it certainly should have landed in the back of the net.

So, there we were. The chances to end the unhappy run came the way of the Town and although they did not have the best of luck in their finishing, there is still room for more punch inside the penalty area.

Although there was improvement in attack, the line was lopsided because the left wing was so much out of the picture.

Had Cummins and Adam produced anything like the work of Cullen and Turner, then the Town could have been on the winning side.

#### Turner Regained His Best Form

TURNER'S return to form and full confidence was one of the compensating features in this defeat and he showed a great deal of determination and sensible distribution of the ball.

He would have been even more dangerous had the through passes come his way after he had taken up position in the open space and there were times when either Cummins or Adam could have pushed the ball through, but preferred to hold on to it.

In the first half, Adam did not have a great deal of the ball, but in the second half, he had ample opportunity to shine, only, continually, to make the same mistake of running with the ball until he was tackled, as he was invariably by Howe.

#### Cullen Had Beating Of Millard

ALL he needed to have done was to push the ball past the full-back, who would not have been able to turn quickly enough to cut off the danger.

Conversely, Cullen, amply supported in the first half, was a continual source of danger, for he had the beating of Millard nearly every time and he and Morton combined to good effect.

Had Cullen been brought more into the game after the interval, he might have caused some damage and it was good to see him back at his best after a somewhat unhappy spell and the right wing settling down again.

There remains the problem of the other flank, where Cummins is completely off form and did not do much in this match to demonstrate what a fine ball player he can be.

#### West Brom's Praise For Morton

BUT the player West Brom officials were talking about most afterwards was Morton.

"What a fine centre-forward he is," was Manager Vic Buckingham's comment and Morton worked like a Trojan to keep the line moving and was very successful despite the close attention of Kennedy, one of the best centre-halfs in the country.

When he switched down the right wing to receive the ball from Cullen, there was always trouble brewing for the West Brom defence and he was most unlucky not to find a place in the list of scorers.

West Brom had nothing on the Town so far as classic football was concerned and some of the Town's midfield play was brilliant, considering the conditions.

#### Half-back Line Had A Strange Look

HOWEVER, where West Brom had a slight pull was that, as a line, they were that little bit stronger and forthright and they accepted sufficient chances to make certain of the points.

With none of the old half-back firm of Morton, Owen and Shanks in the middle line, it had a strange look, but things worked out well enough, with Pearce, at right-half, this time, turning in another good display.

I like the style of Pearce, who was always coming in to meet the ball, was strong in the tackle and did not hesitate to come through to have a crack at goal.

Pemberton, too, was in better form than of late and the switch to the left flank did not worry him.

He got through a hard afternoon's work in accomplished style and it was no fault of the wing-halves that the Town went down.



Mr. L. W. Prewes, F.R.C.S. (left), orthopaedic surgeon at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, at the opening of a course on the treatment of injuries for football team trainers in Luton and district. H5703M

#### Kelly Is Doing A Workmanlike Job

KELLY continues to make a workmanlike job of being Owen's deputy and he had no easy task against the tall Barlow, who is leading the West Brom line in somewhat unorthodox fashion and tends to lie deep to feed his forward colleagues.

Once he settled down, Kelly was an effective stopper and he has proved that the manager's confidence in his ability was not misplaced.

Despite some liveliness by Lee, who tried all sorts of tricks, Dunne came through with full credit marks for a staunch display and despite the difficulty of defenders turning quickly, it was seldom that Lee had a clear run for goal.

Two or three times, too, he worked the clement of surprise in coming through with the ball and it might easily have brought a goal in the first half.

#### Frustrating Match For Baynham

ALTHOUGH he had some difficulty in coping early on with Griffin, who contrived to find himself room in which to operate, Aherne gained a grip later and put up a stout display being hard in the tackle and kicking safely with either foot.



For Baynham, it was a frustrating afternoon in view of the unlucky second goal and the fact that he should have prevented the third from coming.

These were offset to some extent by three brilliant saves and the slipperiness of the going was something of a goalkeeper's nightmare.

Now, the Town prepare for a tilt at the League leaders Manchester United, next Saturday and there are hopes that Shanks will have recovered from the gland trouble that kept him out at West Bromwich.

#### Greyhound Racing



#### RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR LUTON TONIGHT

7.30 (410 yds) 123 Billy Bean, 442 Jeff, 644 Red Head, 24 Slipalong, 33 Storm, 443 Swannee, reserve 61 Grasshopper.

7.48 (470 yds) 53 Jaywick, 611 Legion, 33 Mid-Off, 213 Old Coat, 214 The Porpoise, 534 Wallflower, reserve 145 Mariner.

8.06 (410 yds) 36 Black Watch (Jan 19, tp 5, 25.06), 453 Blue Baby, 6 Old Flame (Jan 24, tp 3, 24.24), Pip Emma (Jan 19, tp 4, 24.81, Jan 21, tp 6, 24.65), Silver Boy (Dec 29, tp 6, 24.96, Jan 14, tp 6, 24.58), Stanley (Jan 19, tp 6, 24.78, Jan 24, tp 5, 24.71), reserve 555 George.

8.24 (410 yds) 6 Aladdin (Jan 19, tp 4, 24.84, Jan 21, tp 5, 24.48), 251 Arm In Arm, Dingle Byre (Dec 29, tp 2, 24.83, Dec 31, tp 5, 24.52), Ramona (Jan 19, tp 5, 24.65, Jan 24, tp 6, 24.63), 262 Santa Maria The Saint (Jan 19, tp 3, 24.77, Jan 21, tp 1, 24.45), reserve 145 Mariner.

8.44 (470 yds) F51 Bright Light, 231 Flo, 222 Gaf, 152 Lark, 133 Ouram, 41 So-So, reserve 444 The Lodger.

9.04 (410 yds) 431 Black Lam, Candy (Jan 19, tp 1, 25.22, Jan 24, tp 2, 24.78), Irene (Jan 19, tp 4, 24.66, Jan 24, tp 4, 24.43), 145 Knocker, 112 Moira, 1F1 Shalwyn.

9.22 (470 yds) 142 Boom, 11 Day Out, 62 East Bound, 165 Red Cross, 165 St. Bruno, 422 Very Game, reserve 456 Lion's Head.

9.40 (410 yds) 331 John, 513 Just Jake, 656 Nagrom, 53 Play-boy, 666 Robbie, 65 Squeaker, reserve 424 Bunter.

SELECTIONS  
7.30 Red Head (Slipalong, Swannee);  
7.48 The Porpoise (Old Coat, Wallflower);  
8.06 Pip Emma (Blue Baby, Silver Boy);  
8.24 Arm In Arm (nap) (Dingle Byre, Aladdin);  
8.44 Bright Light (Lark, Gaf);  
9.04 Moira (Shalwyn, Black Lass);  
9.22 Day Out (St. Bruno, Red Cross);  
9.40 Just Jake (Robbie, Nagrom).

## CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

**DIVISION I**  
Aston Villa v. Arsenal  
Barnsley v. Sheffield Utd.  
Cardiff C. v. Blackpool  
Charlton Ath. v. West Brom  
Everton v. Newcastle Utd.  
Luton T. v. Manchester Utd.  
Manchester C. v. Chelsea  
Preston N.E. v. Huddersfield T.  
Sunderland v. Portsmouth  
Tottenham H. v. Birmingham C.  
Wolves v. Bolton W.

**DIVISION II**  
Barnsley v. West Ham  
Bristol R. v. Lincoln C.  
Bury v. Port Vale  
Doncaster R. v. Blackburn R.  
Fulham v. Rotherham Utd.  
Leeds Utd. v. Swansea T.  
Middlesbrough v. Bristol C.  
Notts Co. v. Nottingham F.  
Plymouth A. v. Liverpool  
Sheff Wed. v. Hull C.  
Stoke C. v. Leicester C.

**DIVISION III (SOUTH)**  
Aldershot v. Walsall  
Brighton v. Shrewsbury T.  
Colchester Utd. v. Millwall  
Crystal Palace v. Ipswich T.  
Exeter C. v. Watford  
Leyton O. v. Reading  
Northampton T. v. Torquay Utd  
Norwich C. v. Gillingham  
Q.P.R. v. Newport Co.  
Southampton v. Bournemouth  
Southend Utd. v. Brentford  
Swindon T. v. Coventry C.

**DIVISION III (NORTH)**  
Aberdeen v. Grimsby T.  
Barrow v. Carlisle Utd.  
Bradford C. v. Stockport Co.

**SCOTTISH LEAGUE**  
**DIVISION "A"**  
Aberdeen v. St. Mirren  
Clyde v. East Fife  
Dunfermline v. Airdrieonians  
Falkirk v. Hibernian  
Hearts v. Queen of South  
Kilmarnock v. Stirling A.  
Motherwell v. Celtic  
Raith R. v. Dundee  
Rangers v. Partick T.

**DIVISION "B"**  
Albion R. v. St. Johnstone  
Alloa v. Brechin C.  
Berwick R. v. Arbroath  
Dundee Utd. v. Hamilton  
East Stirling v. Third Lanark  
Forfar Ath. v. Cowdenbeath  
Montrose v. Stenhousemuir  
Queen's Park v. Dumbarton  
Stranraer v. Ayr Utd.

**SELECTIONS**  
**TEN HOME:** Burnley, Preston, Wolves, Bristol R., Sheffield Wed., Brighton, Leyton Orient, Norwich, Gateshead, York.  
**FOUR AWAY:** Arsenal, Liverpool, Ipswich, Derby.  
**THREE DRAWS:** Tottenham v. Birmingham; Bury v. Port Vale; Wrexham v. Chester.

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J. Liversidge (left) brushes aside a right hook from A.B.A. Empire and European champion, Nicky Gargano, during their welterweight special contest at Vauxhall Chiltern last night. Gargano took the contest on a points decision.