

Other Critics Said:

BAYNHAM QUALIFIED FOR PRAISE

As far as the national newspaper critics were concerned there was only one team in it when Blackpool beat Luton—and that despite Luton's late rally which brought them two goals.

It was Blackpool who stole all the headlines and one had to look hard for kind words for Luton. There was one exception, however. Ron Baynham, who saved his side from a heavier defeat, received several "bouquets" and more than one writer said that he looked the part of an England goalkeeper.

Here are some "quotes".

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"With all due respects to Luton Town in general and Ron Baynham in particular, Blackpool made an easy job look difficult on the slate-hard Bloomfield-road ground"—Sunday Dispatch

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"Blackpool came cracking back into championship form and left Luton Town asking 'Why pick on us?' The score was no indication of the football feast Blackpool served up to the shivering spectators, for only luck and Baynham averted a Luton rout."—Empire News & Sunday Chronicle.

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"A measure of bad luck and a wonderful goalkeeping display by Ron Baynham held Blackpool in check until Durie scored his second and Perry added a third goal"—Sunday Express.

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"Luton Town's decline goes on and on. And there was no break in the clouds in this match. In spite of the score there was only one team in it and it was not the Town.—News of The World.

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"Suddenly, the Luton forwards, whose earlier efforts had been pathetic, cut loose and bang, bang—two goals made Blackpool's lead look sick"—Sunday Pictorial

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"Ron Baynham made a few saves which had an England goalkeeper's signature on them"—The People

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"Blackpool were always winning this game, and were entitled to win it"—Blackpool Evening Gazette

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"Blackpool were the more aggressive"—Manchester Evening News.

BELATED FLOURISH NO POINT-SAVER

Gave Blackpool No More Than A Mild Scare

By Chiltern

BLACKPOOL 3 LUTON TOWN 2

Some of that forward sting that has been missing for so long was re-discovered by the Town at Bloomfield-road, Blackpool, on Saturday, but too late to affect the result of a match that the home team seemed to have well tied up by the early part of the second half.

Twice in the last seven minutes, the Town attack which previously had lacked smoothness and punch, struck to give the Seasiders a mild scare, but no more than that.

Before these quick blows, there had been little to suggest that the Town could break down a defence that had had a comparatively easy afternoon and there had been little or nothing to cause Farm, who played throughout wearing his track suit trousers, any real anxiety.

On the other hand, Baynham was given ample opportunity, right from the first minute, of showing that he is right back in International form and it is a concrete fact that, but for his work, things could have gone very badly indeed for the Town.

Not that he was able to do anything about preventing DURIE giving Blackpool the lead in the 24th minute when he ran on to an accurately lobbed pass by Matthews and swept the ball through as the goalkeeper came out to narrow the angle.

Other than a fierce drive by Davies that gave Farm his first real employment and another from Turner that went just too high, the Town gave little promise of equalising and, indeed, another goal to Blackpool looked by far the more likely happening.

BAYNHAM FOILED A HAT TRICK

On the other hand, Baynham had to make several difficult saves, none better than the one from Durie whose header he just managed to finger tip over the bar.

When with 12 minutes of the second half gone, DURIE scored again, this time with a terrific first-time drive, taken on the volley, from the edge of the penalty area, the Town looked to be heading for dire trouble.

Durie looked set for a hat trick when he raced through, blazed away at goal and Baynham, nearly on the six yards line, made a brilliant full-length save. At this stage, it was all

defence for the Town, with Baynham saving from Kelly (J) and Brown and, in view of the way play had run, it was no surprise when PERKY obtained the third goal 18 minutes from time.

Left at a very acute angle from a pass by Mudie, he somehow crashed the ball into the roof of the net, with Baynham left helpless.

That seemed to be rather more than the beginning of the end for the Town, but then came a surprise turn, with the Town forwards beginning to show more initiative and worrying the home defence for almost the first time that half.

TWO QUICK GOALS

Davies cracked the ball over the bar from a pass by Turner, who then had a low centre cut off by Farm, and then came the Town's first goal after 83 minutes.

DAVIES was the scorer with a low shot from the outside-right position where he had switched just before and the chance came from a pass by Cutten after a corner on the left.

An interruption in the Town's rally came when Blackpool swept to the attack again and Baynham saved well from Mudie, but the Town took the bit between their teeth once more and with only a minute remaining, MACEWAN took advantage of some slackness in defence after a shot by Pearce had been deflected and beat Farm easily and coolly.

Had the Town been given the confidence that these goals brought earlier in the game, they might have ended their depressing run which has now brought them five consecutive defeats in League matches.

As things were, had they snatched a point, they would have been lucky for Blackpool were the superior team and they had more ideas and accuracy in attack.

Until that late challenge to Blackpool, the Town forwards, apart from some hint of promise at times in the first half, had not really threatened to become prolific scorers.

FINAL PASS WENT ASTRAY

Far too often, the final pass went astray and there were many cases of the inside-forwards holding the ball just that fraction too long before trying to part and then being caught in possession.

This was a fault of the hard-working Pearce, and the line seldom played the football that we grew used to seeing when things were really going well.

There were few chances for MacEwan on his return to the team, even though he kept harassing the home defence and Davies, too, received less support than he was entitled to expect, but was more effective than Cullen, who was much below form.

Turner worked willingly, but things did not run right for him either and the line lacked cohesion until the closing stages.

While Matthews caused much of the trouble to the Town defence, the danger man was Durie who was given far too much room by Pemberton and this combined with the fact that Shanks, handicapped by heel trouble, was not at his best, meant that the Town could not gain a grip on the middle of the field.

A lot of the danger from Matthews was cut down by the intelligent way in which Jones marked him and the full-back has made solid claims for a regular place.

The down-the-middle route was pretty firmly blocked by Kelly, who gave another rugged display in holding Mudie and although some of Dunne's clearances were not strong enough, he managed to cut down the effectiveness of Perry.

But the Town's shining star was Baynham with, I was told afterwards as fine a display of goalkeeping as has been seen on the ground this season.

BLACKPOOL: Farm; Armfield; Wright; Kelly (J), Gratrix, Kelly (H); Matthews Brown Mudie, Durie, Perry.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Jones; Pemberton, Kelly (T), Shanks; Cullen, Turner, MacEwan Pearce, Davis.

Referee—J. S. Pickles, Bradford. Attendance.—18,560