

TOWN'S TWO GOALS ARRIVED TOO LATE

RALLY LENT AN AIR OF RESPECTABILITY

But Baynham Prevented A Heavier Defeat

By Chiltern

UE to a late rally in which the Town forwards found holes in a Blackpool defence that previously had had an untroubled afternoon by comparison with that of their rivals, the Town gave the score at Bloomfield - road on Saturday an air of respectability.

ally, a 3-2 result suggests a closely fought match, with the issue always in doubt, but, on this occasion, to read that into it would be wrong, for Blackpool always looked like winning this game. the same time, had the Town's two goals come earlier, they might very well have given the home team an even greater shock than they had.

it was, Blackpool were not jolted out of their seven minutes from the when they were enjoying a of 3-0

st previously, Davies had ched with Cullen and it was the latter's pass following ner that Davies raced in to at the ball from the outside position and crack it low Farm.

very well-taken goal, but to pool it must have seemed ly one of those things and, nly, their lead did not seem e in any sort of danger.

at they were shaken when Pearce had had a shot ted, and with the Blackpool

defence anyhow, MacEwan was left with a clear course to goal and beat Farm easily.

No Time In Which To Seek An Equaliser

FIVE minutes earlier, that would have been a real shot in the arm for the Town but, unfortunately, there was only a bare minute left when that happened and no time in which to launch a full-scale attack which might well have meant the saving of a point that the Town so badly need to restore their confidence.

So, we were left merely with the hope that the better form which the forwards struck in the

FOR THE RECORDS

BLACKPOOL 3
Durie (2), Perry
LUTON TOWN 2
Davies, MacEwan
BLACKPOOL: Farm;
Armfield, Wright; Kelly (J),
Gratrix, Kelly (H); Matthews,
Brown, Madie, Durie Perry.
LUTON TOWN: Bayn-
ham; Dunne, Jones; Pemberton,
Kelly (T), Shanks;
Cullen, Turner, MacEwan,
Pearce, Davies
Referee. — J. S. Pickles,
Bradford. Attendance.—18,562.

last quarter of an hour is the fore-runner of more success but, otherwise, it was by no means a happy day for the reorganised attack.

They had a fairly bright start that suggested that Blackpool might be given a run for their money, but the home forwards had the more constructive ideas and used the ball more accurately.

Matthews Began To Look For The Ball

IN this respect they owed a great deal to Matthews who, after being almost completely neglected out on the right wing for the first quarter of an hour, decided that he would have to go to look for the ball.

Look for it he did in a variety of positions ranging as far across field as inside-left and it was from somewhere approximating to this that he laid on the opening for Durie to give Blackpool the lead after 24 minutes.

With delicate care, he chipped the ball over the heads of the defenders for the inside-left to run on to and be left with plenty of time in which to pick his spot in the net as Baynham advanced. Although they fought back, the

Town could not work out many openings against a compact defence and the only shots of note were from Davies, who forced the long-trousered Farm to throw himself across his goal and from Turner, who was just too high.

Blackpool Had Other Scoring Chances

ON the other hand, Blackpool were having clear-cut chances and missing them, as when Madie was allowed to go through with the Town awaiting an offside decision that never came, and pulled the ball wide with only Baynham to beat.

Only a great save by Baynham from a header by Durie after Matthews had made one of his slide-rule centres, kept the Town irritable and squarely in the game and, although they had a fair amount of the play, they only rarely looked as if they might regain equality.

Only one down at half-time, and with the defence playing resolutely enough, there looked to be a chance of the Town

RACING IS OFF AGAIN

There will be no racing at Luton Stadium tonight, because of the condition of the track.

Punters are having a lean time at the moment, for Saturday's meeting was also cancelled because of the weather.

Screaming Drive Beat Baynham

SUCH is the status of this player that the crowd thought the incident amusing, but, probably, anyone else who had made a similar mistake would have had a different reaction.

Then Matthews, stoned by doing the same-work that led to Blackpool's second goal after 38 minutes.

Instead of shooting on this occasion, he held the ball, seeking a colleague in an open space.

When he did part with it, the ball struck a defender and bounced out to Durie who, from the edge of the penalty area, hit it first-time on the volley and it fairly screamed into the far corner of the net with Baynham desperately throwing himself across the goal in an effort to reach it.

Baynham Had To Work Overtime

FOR a time after that, it was all Blackpool, with Baynham working overtime in an effort to keep the score down.

He made a brilliant save at the edge of the six yards line to foil Durie of a hat-trick and also cleared well from Jimmy Kelly and Brown.

But there was nothing he could do in the 72nd minute when Durie after a movement in which Brown and Madie had pulled the defence out of position crashed the ball into the roof of the net from a most acute angle to, so it seemed, to finally seal the match in Blackpool's favour.

At that stage, from the Town point of view, it seemed merely a question of "how many?" Then, with about a quarter of an hour to go, the game suddenly swung in favour of the Town.

First Hint Of A Town Recovery

FIRST hint of a recovery came when Davies cracked the ball left-footed and first-time over the bar and then Farm who, at times must have wished that he had his overcoat as well as his long trousers, had to get down in a hurry to cut off a low centre by Turner that could have been most dangerous.

Then came the Davies success and before MacEwan produced the

second shock for Blackpool, Baynham had been in action again, pushing over the bar a shot from Madie and Brown pulled out a high-powered drive that flew harmlessly wide.

There was no doubting that, on the day, Blackpool were full value for their revenge for their defeat at Luton earlier in the season, mainly because their distribution of the ball was more accurate and they made better use of the open spaces.

The Final Pass Often Went Astray

THERE was plenty of fight about the Town, but they needed a craftsman in the middle of the field to link the forward line together.

Far too often, especially in the second half, the final pass went astray and far too high a proportion of them were intercepted by home defenders.

Pearce, whom it had been hoped would produce the low through passes on which the Town's attacking policy was built, tended to hold the ball that fraction too long and, as a result to be caught in possession frequently.

He tried hard enough, but things did not quite run for him, nor did it for the line as a whole.

There was determination and challenge from Turner who, however, has not yet regained his pre-Christmas form, but Davies with somewhat meagre support, did suggest that his directness could be an asset to the side.

Have Scored In Two Consecutive Matches

GOALS have not been plentiful enough recently to ignore anyone who has scored in two consecutive matches as Davies, has done but he is far more at home on the right wing, as he showed when he switched over there.

So has MacEwan, who Notts County were watching, scored on each of his last two appearances, but there were few chances for him in this match for, apart from lack of support, Gratrix gave him little scope and his distribution of the lively ball was often wide of the mark.

Far too many times, Cullen sought to make progress by pushing the ball back and he could probably have taken a leaf out of the book of Matthews in the way he used the ball.

So, apart from that last spasm the Town did not look a vital attacking force, but the fact that they scored twice in a match for the first time this year, gives a crumb of comfort and, possibly, grounds for hope for the future.

Jones's Good Display Against Matthews

WHILE Matthews did much to win this game for Blackpool, every credit must be given to Jones for the way in which he tackled the job of marking him.

In another good display which emphasises his claim for a regular place, Jones played the winger fairly and well and his clearances with either foot were a considerable asset.

But the star of the defence was Baynham who clicked right back into international form from the first minute when only a great save by him from Durie prevented another early disaster.

Several times, he brought down the home with spectacular saves and had he not been in this form, things could have gone very badly for the Town and heavy defeat would have been their portion.

Durie Was Given Too Much Room

MAN who caused most damage was Durie, a tall player whose action suggests clumsiness.

but there was nothing clumsy in the way in which he brought the ball under control in circumstances that looked to be impossible at times, nor in his shooting.

For much of the game, he was given far too much room by Pemberton, who should have marked him more closely when it was seen that the inside-left was cast in the role of marksman-in-chief and Pemberton's defensive work was not strong.

Nor was Shanks at his best, mainly because, after 10 minutes he was troubled by the heel which was poisoned a fortnight ago and which caused him to miss one match.

On Sunday morning, a doctor confirmed that there had been a recurrence of the trouble and gave him a penicillin injection which it is hoped checked it.

Doubt About Shanks For Saturday

SHANKS was reporting to the club doctor yesterday morning, along with Baynham who has fluid on the knee, and Abernethy whose knee is still being troublesome.

There must be some doubt about Shanks being available for Saturday, though there are hopes that treatment will enable him to be fit.

Continuing his series of workman like displays, and attempting nothing too ambitious, Kelly held Madie well and, while he is not yet dominating the scene, he is doing a very useful job.

Dunne had a tussle with Perry, who was not so dangerous as had been expected though he worried the full-back occasionally.

Again, Dunne made over-much use of the short pass in clearing when a good, hearty punt upfield would have brought less danger.

Cummins Was Back To His Best

SELDOM has a goal scored in a Football Combination match at Luton caused as much enthusiasm as the one that was "made" by George Cummins for McLeod in the 32nd minute of their match with Bristol Rovers on Saturday.

It was a brilliant effort which drew spontaneous applause from almost everyone present. Cummins completely bamboozled the Rovers' defence and instead of trying a shot himself he back heeled the ball to McLeod, who was left with the simplest of chances.

Cummins, who showed the sort of form that will soon have him back in the League side, had a great first half and showed all his old confidence and skill.

He also provided the pass from which Gregory scored Luton's first goal in the third minute.

Collier Gave Another Good Display

LUTON won 2-0 on a snow-covered pitch and, considering the conditions, they played good football, especially in the first half.

After the interval, the visitors had more of the play but they could not beat Collier who, for the second consecutive week, made many excellent saves.

Even so Luton missed three simple chances in this period for Pounder, Adam and Cummins all failed from easy positions.

Under the circumstances though, it was a satisfactory victory with Luton's ing a much improved display.

The forwards were lively with Pounder showing signs that he is settling down. The defence had a few anxious moments in the second half, but came through well, and while Groves gave no indication that he will settle down at left half he tried hard and never gave up working.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

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

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

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)
Bradford C. v. Bradford
Crewe Alex. v. Darlington
Derby Co. v. Gateshead

Halifax T. v. Grimsby T.
Hartlepool Utd. v. Accrington S.
Mansfield T. v. Chester
Oldham Ath. v. Chesterfield
Scunthorpe Utd. v. Rochdale
Stockport Co. v. Barrow
Workington v. Tranmere R.
Wrexham v. Carlisle Utd.
York C. v. Southport

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

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

SELECTIONS
TEN HOME: Birmingham
Burnley, Manchester Utd., Mid-
dlesbrough, Port Vale, Brighton,
Ipswich, Southampton, Derby,
Scunthorpe.

FOUR AWAY: Wolves, Black-
burn, Leyton Orient, Gttsby.

THREE DRAWS: Tottenham
v. Chelsea; Bristol C. v.
Leicester; Torquay v. Norwich

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