

Other Critics Had :

PRAISE FOR A FIGHTING DISPLAY

National newspaper critics appeared to be as pleased with Luton as Town officials must have been after their great fighting victory over Wolverhampton.

Where criticism has been the rule in recent weeks there was praise. Praise for the way in which the team overcame the injury handicaps, praise for the excellent team spirit and special mention for young Tony Gregory and Ron Baynham.

Here are some quotes :

"Celebrating their first-ever League visit to Wolverhampton and the return of a firmer surface. Luton astonished Wolves by the ordered sprightliness of their play. They were lively where Wolves were sluggish, eager and constructive where Wolves lacked zip and method."—The People.

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"Right from the kick-off Luton looked dangerous . . . There was always an efficient look about them."—Sunday Dispatch.

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"Luton hung on grimly to their interval lead which gave them their second impressive double in a fortnight."—Sunday Pictorial.

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"Gallant Luton. Reduced to nine fit men at times, they outplayed these insipid Wolves and romped to their double of the season . . . all the Luton players showed enthusiasm and fighting quality which Wolves never matched."—Sunday Express.

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"Luton were the better opportunists. Their defence was good."—Reynolds News.

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"With only nine fit men Luton gave Wolves a lesson in how to fight for a ball. The handicaps only made Luton fight harder."—News of the World.

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"The Molineux crowd, who went to cheer an expected home victory, suffered a disappointment, the visitors winning their first-ever League match at this enclosure . . . the victory completed a notable double for Luton."—Wolverhampton Sporting Star.

WOLVES HAVE CAUSE TO REMEMBER TOWN

Much Handicapped Team Completes Great Double

By Chiltern

WOLVES 1, LUTON TOWN 2

LIKE Sunderland, the much-publicised Wolves have good cause to remember the Town's first season in Division I, for their plan to take revenge for the thrashing they received at Luton went awry at Molineux on Saturday.

Not only that, but it misfired completely against a team that was badly handicapped by injury for more than three-quarters of the match and which thoroughly deserved the points despite the fact that they finished with only nine fit men.

It was in the 21st minute that the first misfortune befell the Town when Turner injured an ankle in a tackle with Wright and had to be taken off the field.

Yet, a minute later, the Town had taken the lead through DAVIES, who cleverly anticipated the flight of a corner by Adam and, running into the inside-left position, neatly steered the ball into the net with his head, with Williams the other end of the goal.

Despite that, there were sad Luton hearts when it was seen that Turner was limping towards the dressing room, but the quality of the Town's subsequent play did not suggest that they were below strength.

Quite often, they worried the Wolves' defence and then, after he had been off for ten minutes, Turner returned to lurch at outside-right, with Davies remaining inside.

With 35 minutes gone, Wolves launched a better-planned attack and Wilshaw touched on a centre by Mullen for HANCOCKS to crack the ball low into the net.

Earlier, Wilshaw had struck the bar, but that was counter-balanced by the fact that Davies hit the outside of a post.

GREGORY OPENS HIS ACCOUNT

The loss of their lead did not discourage the Town. Rather did it drive them on to fresh endeavours and four minutes from half-time GREGORY had the distinction of scoring his first goal in League football with a grand cross-drive from the edge of the

penalty area that sent the ball into the net off the inside of the far post.

To make this opening from Pearce's pass, he made both Wright and Shorthouse go the wrong way, and it was a brilliant effort.

From the way in which the Wolves began the second half, it looked as if they had had a half-time pep talk, but the early threat did not last, and the more methodical work of the Town team as a whole took them back on to the attack again.

Then came the second mishap in the 62nd minute, when Jones suffered a similar injury to that of Turner, and he, too, was off for 10 minutes, before returning to outside-left, with Adam inside. Pearce at left-half and Shanks at left-back.

Even his absence did not prevent the Town going near to scoring again, for Turner hit the foot of the post.

Naturally, there was Wolves pressure in the closing stages, but the re-adjusted Town defence held out gamely and, with Baynham in top form, there seldom seemed a lot of danger of them losing the lead.

This performance in itself is sufficient to wipe out the memories of recent disappointments, and it was the best display the Town have given since their bad spell began.

From the forwards, even after Turner's injury, there was more freedom of movement and accuracy of execution of their work than there has been for weeks past, and they looked a lot more dangerous than the Wolves' front line.

Gregory has proved that the step into First Division football has not been too much for him by the displays he has given against three International centre-halves, and he led the line most intelligently against the one who is rated number one in England at the moment.

ALL PULLED THEIR WEIGHT

But the feature of the Town's fine display was the willingness of everyone to pull his weight, and there was fight and keenness all the way around.

Both Davies and Pearce worked themselves into the ground at inside-forward, there was a big improvement in Adam's form, and Turner might easily have scored twice despite his injury.

The defence absorbed everything the Wolves could produce in workmanlike style and Kelly gave his best display since gaining a first-team place and is proving remarkably adept at preventing opposing centre-forwards from scoring.

A top-form Morton and the industrious Shanks completed a strong half-back line and Dunne and Jones cut down the effectiveness of two of the most experienced wingers in the country.

And when everything else failed, there was always Baynham, who did not make the slightest suggestion of an error. In dealing with high centres, he was magnificent and, apart from making a big impression on the crowd, he earned a pat on the back from Wright at the end.

WOLVES: Williams; Stuart, Shorthouse; Slater, Wright, Flowers; Hancock, Broadbent, Wilshaw, Booth, Mullen.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Kelly, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Gregory, Pearce, Adam.

Referee: A. E. Moore. Lowestoft. Attendance: 32,339.