

Other Critics:

**GAVE MORE
BRICKBATS
THAN PRAISE**

Although Luton recorded their first home League victory of 1956 against luckless Aston Villa on Saturday, national newspaper critics who watched them win were hardly ecstatic about their form.

Most of them had plenty of faults to find, but all were impressed by the form of Tony Gregory at centre-forward. Ron Baynham, too, received some praise but, otherwise, brickbats were more in evidence than bouquets.

Here are some "quotes":
"Gregory is a fine prospect. But manager Dally Duncan can't be expected to enthuse about the rest of his team. They gained their first home League victory of 1956, but little else could be said in their favour."—
"Sunday Express."

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"Luton were not the team I had watched earlier this season when I credited them as the best football entertainers in the First Division. . . . I liked Tony Gregory." — "News of the World."

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"Baynham, particularly confident in his handling, is coming back to England form. Dunne, Pearce and 18-years-old Gregory were others who did well enough at least to earn exoneration from the general charge of mediocrity." — "The People."

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"The home side, still below their best, coasted to victory. One of the few stars was 18-years-old Luton centre-forward Gregory, easily the most effective forward."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"Once in front, Luton seldom looked like losing their lead and, but for faulty finishing, would have won more easily."—"Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

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"Luton's first home win of 1956 caused considerable satisfaction, but the most pleasing feature was the form shown by the 18-years-old centre-forward, Tony Gregory."—"Sunday Pictorial."

**HOME WIN FOR THE
TOWN AT LONG LAST**

**Pearce's Two Goals Lit
Up Scrambling Affair**

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2, ASTON VILLA 1

EXCEPT that it brought the Town's first home victory of 1956, there was nothing very memorable about the visit of Aston Villa, whose famous name seems destined to be among those in the Second Division next season.

They badly needed a point from this encounter and they could so very easily have made certain of it during the first half an hour when the Town were much at sixes and sevens and spent fairly long spells on the defensive.

Playing the better football in approach during this period and making more accurate use of the ball than the Town, whose passing constantly went awry, the Villa's big failing was that they could not produce the finish.

However, it was no more than they deserved when SOUTHREN gave them the lead after 33 minutes with a shot that seemed to dip under the bar over the groping hands of Baynham, who had advanced a little from his goal.

At that time the threat of another home defeat hung darkly over the much-below-form Town, but they made a quick recovery and were on terms within two minutes when PEARCE just beat Sims in a race for a pass by Pemberton.

Some measure of improvement came from the Town after that, but not sufficient to justify high hopes of the run of non-success at home being ended.

FIGHTING SPIRIT WENT

Steadily, however, the Villa lost much of their fight, and it nearly all disappeared 11 minutes after half-time when PEARCE crashed in the ball first time, again from Pemberton's pass.

Thereafter, it was mostly Luton on the attack, with Sims being given the opportunity to show his prowess with several good

saves, but there were several missed chances, too.

Long before the end, a match that had never advanced above mediocrity was fizzling out, though it nearly ended on a note of high drama when Smith was left with a fine chance in the last minute, but Baynham narrowed the angle so well that he was able to smother the ball.

ADVANCE OF GREGORY

One of the few encouraging signs in this scrambling affair was the continued advance of Gregory, who is rapidly gaining experience and is leading the line intelligently and accurately.

With limited support, he still managed to be the Town's most effective forward, and Adam, despite some uncertainty in his finishing, was next in line.

Pearce worked hard and gained kudos from two well-taken goals, but his partner, Davies, was very much out of touch and a much-switched-about Pemberton was not a success at inside-left.

Part of the Villa's early superiority stemmed from the fact that neither Morton nor Shanks managed to get a grip on the middle of the field, though they tightened it later, and Kelly, again mastering the opposing centre-forward, was the most consistent member of the half-back line.

**THOMPSON'S LEAGUE
BAPTISM**

With Jones not fit, the opportunity was taken to give Thompson his League baptism and, despite looking rather out of his depth at times, he did quite well, though not so successful as the infinitely more experienced Dunne.

Display of Baynham, who was certainly not overworked by the Villa forwards, could not have done other than to advance his claims to continue as England's goalkeeper, for a selector saw him give a thoroughly confident and competent display.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Thompson; Morton, Kelly, Shanks; Davies, Pearce, Gregory, Pemberton, Adam.

ASTON VILLA: Sims; Lynn, Aldis; Birch, Dugdale, Baxter; Smith, Southren, Pace, Dixon, McParland.

Referee: B. A. E. Buckle, Peterborough.

Attendance: 17,102.