

POSSIBLE NOW, BUT NOT ON VILLA FORM

By Chiltern

A FAIR measure of success over Easter could very well put the Town in the running for collecting talent money for the third time in four seasons.

That is the situation their recent good run, which has gained them seven points out of eight, has created, and it is in their favour that three of their last four matches are at home.

Their victory over Aston Villa on Saturday brought them to within two points of Bolton, who hold third place, and only one behind Newcastle, who are fourth on goal average.

Not that the Town's holiday programme, which consists of home and away matches with Chelsea, with a visit to Arsenal sandwiched in between them, is at all an easy assignment and Manager Dally Duncan is hopeful that Gordon Turner will be able to return to the team.

All last week, his damaged ankle was strapped up in order to give it complete rest and treatment started on it yesterday, while he is expecting to do some training today.

There is not much doubt that Leslie Jones will be able to play and, possibly, he could have done so on Saturday had the manager been disposed to take a risk of aggravating his ankle trouble.

Pearce Has Slight Ankle Strain

TURNER himself is confident that he will be in Friday's line-up, but it remains to be seen what progress he makes under treatment this week.

Only new casualty from Saturday's match was Reg Pearce, who slightly strained his ankle when scoring the first goal which gave some confidence to a Town team that had been struggling to achieve some order and get into the game with a winning chance.

By no means impressive was the way in which victory was gained over bottom-of-the-table Villa, who had only themselves to blame that they did not pick up at least one much-needed point.

Villa Had Chances To Build Up Lead

CERTAINLY, they could have put themselves in a strong position during the first half-an-hour when they played the better and more methodical football, but simply failed to produce anything in the shape of finishing power.

No easier chance will come the way of Pace than the one he missed from about eight yards just before Southren scored the goal that seemed to give the Villa a real chance of improving their dire situation.

But, they were never given time to consolidate after that goal in the 33rd minute for, two minutes later, the Town were on level terms again.

A Brace Of Goals For Pearce

ALMOST immediately after the Town went into arrears Pemberton should have levelled matters, but he made amends soon afterwards by laying on a through pass for Pearce to reach it just before Sims, and, stabbing out a stretching leg, he forced the ball through.

That was the beginning of the end for the Villa, who seemed to lose much of their earlier confidence and fighting spirit, and it went almost completely when Pearce put the Town ahead in the 56th minute when he crashed in first time a lobbed pass by Pemberton.

Little Satisfaction From Town's Display

IT was after that the Town came nearest to looking like a team capable of holding a place in the upper half of the table, but, even so, it was a display that did not give much cause for general satisfaction.

In the end their lead could have been more convincing but for some poor finishing, and Pemberton missed the easiest chance of all when he lifted the ball over the bar from close in.

That miss and others could have proved expensive, for only the vigilance of Baynham prevented Smith from gaining a last-minute equaliser in almost the only goal-worthy attack they made after going into arrears.

Injuries Have Had Effect On Attack

IN assessing the quality of the Town's play, and it left a lot to be desired, except that there was the satisfaction of recording their first home victory of 1956, due regard must be paid to the way in which injuries have caused the reorganisation of the attack.

Inclusion of Pemberton at inside-left cannot be regarded as more than a stop-gap measure, nor, indeed, was it intended to be anything else, and I am sure that the player does not regard himself as a First Division inside-forward.

However, an emergency had to be met, and although Pemberton

grip on the middle of the field before half-time.

Southren, particularly, seemed to have a lot of room in which to operate, but the wing-halves got more to grips with things in the second half, when Morton was impressive, and Shanks, while not at his best, showed improvement.

Kelly Kept Up His Excellent Record

HOWEVER, Shanks had the extra responsibility of having to watch when cover was needed for Thompson, who got out of his depth occasionally, as was natural enough on a first appearance, which is always an ordeal.

Yet it was quite a satisfactory showing from this player who has waited for his chance so long, and inexperience of this class of football was bound to show.

Yet another centre-forward scalp was added to Kelly's collection, and for the eighth match in succes-

sion he prevented the opposing leader from scoring.

Now showing a deal of confidence in his place, he is beginning to display more construction, too, and he is doing an excellent job.

Re-shuffled Attack Did No Better

BECAUSE Pace developed a limp in the second half there was some re-shuffling of the Villa attack which took him to outside-left and brought McParland into the middle.

Previously, McParland had not got much change out of Dunne, who marked him well, nor did he succeed in livening up things in the middle. Later, Smith and Southren switched, but it was all to no avail.

Probably, with an England selector watching, Baynham would have wished for more opportunity of showing his skill than came his way, but everything that came his way he dealt with confidently and without the slightest fuss.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

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

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

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

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

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

DIVISION "B"

Albion R. v. Arbroath
Cowdenbeath v. Third Lanark

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 2
Pearce (2)

ASTON VILLA 1
Southren.

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.

Gregory Best Of The Inside-Forward Trio

THIS was Pearce's first League outing at inside-right which he regards as his natural position, and he became the first player to score more than one goal in a match for the Town since Morton, Cullen and Turner did so against Sunderland on November 19.

For all his match-winning qualities on this occasion, and his hard work, Pearce often seemed to be struggling to get into the game, and the best of the inside-forward trio was Gregory, who looks better and better with each game he plays.

It was in the second half when the Town achieved some measure of superiority that the young centre-forward came into his own, using the ball cleverly and being unlucky not to score.

Passes Went Astray In First Half

DURING that period, too, Adam had his most productive spell, and although his finishing could still stand a deal of improvement, he was much more effective than Davies, who had an unhappy match.

The first half produced an epidemic of inaccurate passes by the Town, which was one of the factors in Villa being able to take the upper hand, and another was that neither Morton nor Shanks managed to get a

Greyhound Racing

SINBAD BOOSTED TOTE FORECAST IN FOURTH RACE AT LUTON

FAVOURITES did not fare well at Luton Stadium on Saturday and only two of them, Epping Lad and Black Sheep, won. Nevertheless, winning prices were not exceptionally high, although the fact that Sinbad was second at 10-1 in the fourth race boosted the Tote forecast to £7 17s. 6d.

I. (410 yards).—1. OLD NICK (2); 2. Lucky Jim (4); 3. Ray's Girl (5); reserve; 4. Dory's Pet (3); 5. Queen (1); 6. Storm (6). 1. 6. 6. 1. 1. 24.88. Non-runner Billy Bean (5). Off 6.39. Betting: Evens Storm; 3-1 OLD NICK; 7-2 Queen; 4-1 Lucky Jim; 6-1 Ray's Girl; 8-1 Dory's Pet. Forecast: £2 19s. 3d.

II. (470 yards).—1. LEGION (3) reserve; 2. Scamp (1); 3. Jaywick (2); 4. Sammy (4); 5. The Saint (6); 6. Lindy Lou (5). 1. 2. 4. 4. 6. 28.31. Off 6.58. Betting: 2-1 Jaywick; 3-1 The Saint; 4-1 Scamp; 5-1 Lindy Lou; 6-1 LEGION, Sammy. Forecast £1 10s. 9d.

III. (410 yards).—1. EPPING LAD (2); 2. Frances (5); 3. Kyme (4); 4. Ribbon (6); 5. Old Fella (1); 6. O. Ford (6). 2. 4. 2. 4. 6. 24.17. Betting: Evens EPPING LAD; 9-4 Frances; 5-1 Old Fella; 8-1 Kyme; 10-7 Ribbon, Old Ford. Forecast: 10s. 6d.

IV. (470 yards).—1. PAN-YAN (4); 2. Sinbad (6); 3. Gaf (5); 4. Belle (3); 5. Lightning (2); 6. Knockor (1). Head, 2. 4. 1. dist. 28.64. Off 7.37. Betting: 5-4 Belle; 7-2 PAN-YAN; 5-1 Gaf, Lightning; 8-1 Knockor; 10-1 Sinbad. Forecast: £7 17s. 6d.

V. (470 yards).—1. NERVO (1); 2. Bill-Bill (2); 3. Lark (6); 4. Lucky Strike (5); 5. Patrick M. (3); 6. Eddie's Pride (4). 4. 1. 4. 2. 27.57. Off 7.58. Betting: 5-2 Patrick M.; 3-1 Lark; 4-1 Bill-Bill; 5-1 NERVO, Lucky Strike; 8-1 Eddie's Pride. Forecast: £2 19s. 3d.

VI. (410 yards).—1. BLACK SHEEP (6); 2. Gilly (3); 3. Stanley (2); 4. Met Man (4); 5. Tony Token (1); 6. Midget (4). Head, 1. 4. 4. 2. 28.17. Off 8.17. Betting: 4-5 Gilly's Pet; 4-1 Stanley; 5-1 Tony Token; 5-1 Stanley; 6-1 Met Man. Forecast: 15s.

VII. (470 yards).—1. STEPHEN K (1); 2. Cheeky Mogo (6); 3. Sunny Sue (5); 4. Jill's Pet (2); 5. Silver Boy (3); 6. Midget (4). Head, 1. 4. 4. 2. 28.17. Off 8.37. Betting: 4-5 Jill's Pet; 4-1 STEPHEN K; 5-1 Sunny Sue; 7-1

Cheeky Mogo; 8-1 Midget; 10-1 Silver Boy.

Forecast: £5 7s. 9d.
VIII. (410 yards).—1. NORMAL SERVICE (2); 2. Day Out (1); 3. Nigger (3); 4. Spot Cash (4); 5. Office Boy (6); 6. R.J.D. (5). 2. 1. 3. 3. 4. 24.49. Off 8.57. Betting: 9-4 Day Out, Nigger; 5-1 NORMAL SERVICE, R.J.D.; 6-1 Office Boy; 8-1 Spot Cash. Forecast: £2 13s. 3d.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR LUTON TO-NIGHT

7.30 (410yds)—624 Awlyorone; 425 Jeff; 352 Nancy; 655 Rocky; 54 Silver Dollar (Mar 10, tp 1. 25.25); 366 Whipped Cream, Reserve; 324 Sabrina. 7.48 (470yds)—551 Badger; 346 Crackerjack; 332 Jimmy's Lil; 163 Kid Millions; 125 Mitzi; 316 Red Cross. Reserve: 244 Old Coat.

8.05 (410yds)—2 Crayon; Pin Toes (Jan 19, tp 4. 24.71; Mar 13, tp 3. 25.09); 4 Silver; 351 Swannee; Tus-All-Luck (Mar 8, tp 6. 24.63; Mar 10, tp 6. 24.69); 236 Wake Up, Reserve; 222 Little Freddie.

8.24 (410yds)—613 Big Baby; Bridge (Jan 19, tp 1. 24.72; Mar 6, tp 1. 24.67); 126 Bright Light; 216 Hymies; 24 Joyful (Mar 20, tp 2. 24.55); Leo (Mar 8, tp 3. 24.76; Mar 3, 24.55). Reserve: 265 Bosun.

8.44 (470yds)—11 Blue Monarch; 3 Chris's Pet (Sept 17, tp 5. 24.08; Mar 13, tp 5. 24.35); 3 Danny Boy; 31 Nervo; 32 Pheasant; 325 Spencer.

9.04 (410yds)—451 Call Boy; 126 Cisco Kid; 251 Jonathan; 125 Pilot; 34 Scarf; Tiny (Jan 3, tp 4. 24.44; Mar 3, tp 6. 24.19).

9.22 (470yds)—664 Emcee; 2 Fatso; 3 Landrace; 521 Mariner; 214 Not Fast; 213 The Lodger.

9.40 (410yds)—5 Cat Call; 453 Drummer Boy; 33 Kismet (Mar 20, tp 6. 24.54); 226 Lucky Dome; Mick Quinn (Mar 8, tp 2. 24.74; Mar 17, tp 6. 24.70); 631 S.J.P. Reserve: 244 Old Coat.

SELECTIONS
7.30—Rocky (Jeff, Nancy)
7.48—Badger (Jimmy's Lil, Red Cross).
8.06—Tis-All-Luck (Swannee, Silver).
8.24—Bright Light (Bridge, Leo).
8.44—Nervo (nap) (Blue Monarch, Pheasant).
9.04—Pilot (Scarf, Cisco Kid).
9.22—Mariner (Fatso, Not Fast).
9.40—Drummer Boy (S.J.P., Kismet).

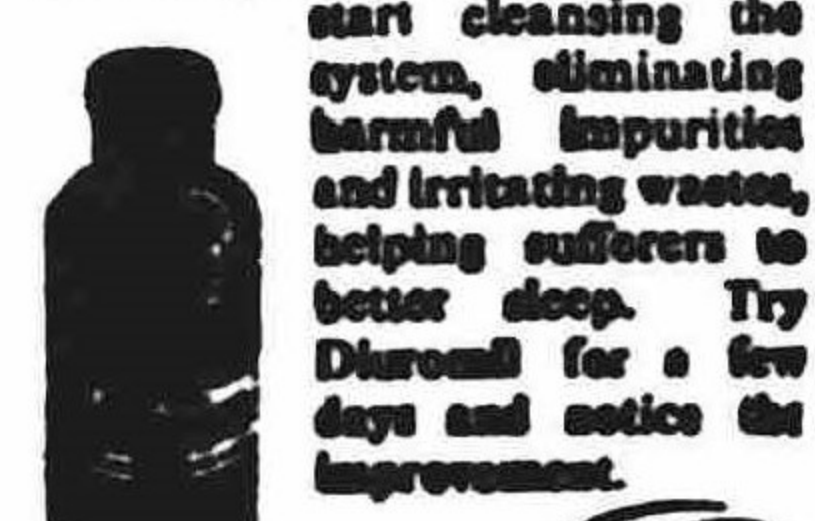


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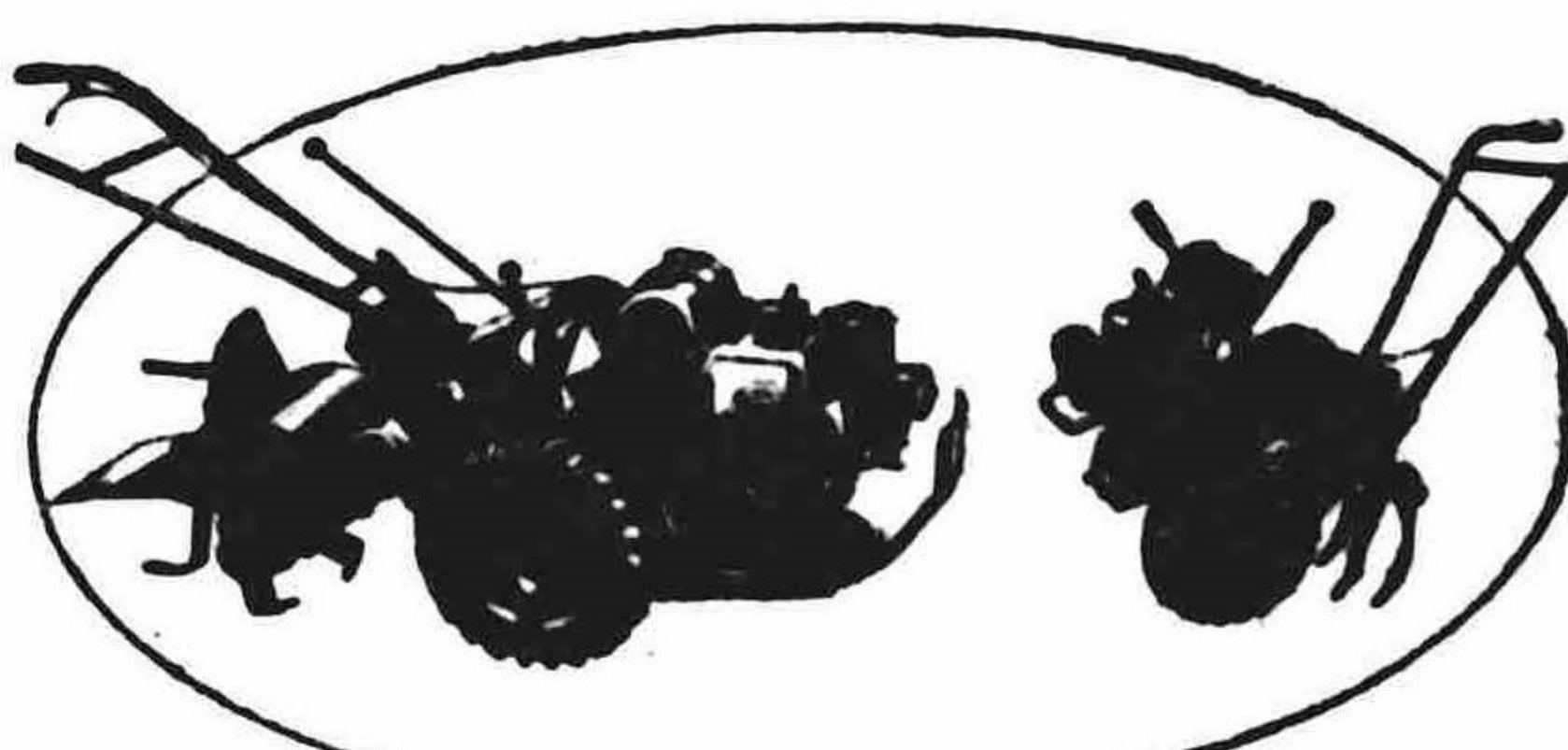
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