

OWEN LIKELY TO PLAY TONIGHT

AFTER SUCCESSFUL TESTS IN RESERVES

By Chiltern

LIKELIHOOD is that the Town captain, Sid Owen, will return to the Town team tonight in the floodlit friendly fixture against Rampla F.C., the Uruguayan tourists.

After two outings with the Reserves, Owen is satisfied that he is completely fit again after the serious injury that has kept him out of the senior side since January 11.

In the last few weeks he has made wonderful progress and, if he does return tonight, it will be rather quicker than was envisaged when he resumed training.

ACTUALLY, this is the ideal match in which to give Owen an outing in something above Combination football, for the tourists are bound to provide formidable opposition and the Town will be putting their strongest available team in against them.

Both Gordon Turner and John Groves felt slight ankle weakness after last Saturday's match and were having treatment yesterday, but it is thought that they will be able to play.

That apart, the only other problem concerns the outside-right position where is a case of giving Tony Pounder another outing, or recalling either Roy Davies or Michael Cullen.

Kelly Has Well Earned A Rest

WITH the opposition much of an unknown quantity, though said to be very strong, experience may count against them and, for this reason, Pounder may be rested.

If, as it appears certain, Owen does appear, then Terry Kelly will be able to take a rest which he well deserves after the sound way in which he has filled in at centre-half during a difficult time.

So, the probable line-up is:—Baynham; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Owen, Shanks; A. N. Other, Turner, Pearce, Groves, Adam.

Improvement, But Not Right Yet

WHILE there was some measure of improvement in the forward line on Saturday as compared with that rock bottom display in the previous match no one will attempt to pretend that the Town's forward troubles are even nearly over.

Maybe, this formation, given time to settle down, can mould itself into a free-scoring line, but there should have been more goals against Portsmouth on the basis of the superiority the Town enjoyed for the greater part of the second half.

One of two factors have to be taken into account and one of them is the switching about that Pearce has done this season.

Pearce's Seventh Different Position

WHEN he led the attack in this match, it was actually the seventh different position he has occupied in the first team, including every berth in the forward line.

Is it any wonder that he did not look the complete answer on what was his first appearance in the middle in a League match?

At the same time, he was a willing worker, kept on the move and showed more than signs of the power to distribute accurately. Too frequently, though, he fell a victim to the Portsmouth offside trap that was operated much too often for the liking of the crowd.

Digs 174

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than that Portsmouth would equalise.

Yet, the point-saving goal very nearly came close to the end when Baynham saved on the goal line a shot from Penk that threatened to get inside the near post.

Portsmouth appealed for a goal, but the referee, who was on the spot, waved on play.

A Tough Debut For Pounder

TURNER always looked the most likely Town forward to score and he was always very much on the spot in the goal-mouth.

For Pounder, there was a quiet sort of debut in which he gained more confidence as the game wore on, but he probably would not have been so nervous had he seen more of the ball early in the game.

In any case, it was a big test for a youngster to have to face such a good full-back as Mansell on his first appearance.

DISQUALIFICATION AND A DEAD-HEAT AT LUTON

THE eighth race was declared void at Luton Stadium on Saturday when Creamy, running in his first competitive event at Luton, finished in 23.72. He was disqualified under rule VII.

There was a dead-heat in the third race. Dogs involved were Boston Brownie and Whiz-O.

I (410yds)—1. RUFFLES (1); 2. Poacher (3); 3. Rosy (6); 4. Rob Roy (5); 5. Squeaker (2); 6. Pukka Gen (4). 8. 3, 1, 6, 2. 24.68. Off 6.43.

Betting: 5-2 RUFFLES; 3-1 Poacher, Rosy, Rob Roy; 7-2 Squeaker; 8-1 Pukka Gen.

Forecast: £11/2-.

II (470yds)—1. SAMMY (6); 2. Crackers (3); 3. Mary Ann (1); 4. Tony's Pet (4); 5. Dory's Pet (2); 6. Storm (5). Neck, 5, 5, 4, 4. 28.26. Off 7.03.

Betting: 2-1 Tony's Pet; 9-4 Crackers; 4-1 SAMMY; 5-1 Storm; 7-1 Dory's Pet; 10-1 Mary Ann.

Forecast: £11/3/3.

III (410yds)—1. BOSTON BROWNIE (1) and WHIZ-O (6), dead-heat; 3. Gerald (5); 4. Lindy Lou (2); 5. Silver (3); 6. Nigger (4). Dead-heat, 5, 5, 6, distance. 24.74. Off 7.23.

Betting: 3-1 Gerald, Nigger; 4-1 BOSTON BROWNIE, WHIZ-O; 6-1 Silver; 8-1 Lindy Lou.

Forecast: £11/5/9, 17/3.

IV (470yds)—1. THE LODGER (3); 2. Not Fast (5); 3. Keep Moving (6); 4. Pan-Yan (4); 5. Silver Belle (1); 6. Lark (2). 13, 14, 2, 2, 1, 27.42. Off 7.43.

Betting: 2-1 Keep Moving; 9-4 Silver Belle; 4-1 THE LODGER; Not Fast; 6-1 Lark; 8-1 Pan-Yan.

Forecast: £4/6-.

V (470yds)—1. SPACER (4); 2. Landrace (3); 3. Eddie's Pride (1); 4. King Sol (5); 5. Cisco Kid (2); 6. Stand Fast (6). 8, 5, 4, 3, 2, 27.31. Off 8.04.

Betting: 2-1 SPACER; 5-2 Eddie's Pride; 7-2 King Sol; 5-1 Cisco Kid; Stand Fast; 10-1 Landrace.

Forecast: £2/4/9.

VI (410yds)—1. TONY TOKEN (3); 2. Bright Light (6); 3. Call Boy (1); 4. Harding (4); 5. Dirty Shirt (2); 6. Met Man (5). 7, head, 4, 10, 1, 23.81. Off 8.23.

Betting: 10-1 Call Boy; 5-2 TONY TOKEN; 5-1 Met Man; 8-1 others.

Forecast: £3/0/6.

VII (470yds)—1. GEORGE (2); 2. Midget (3); 3. Day Out (1); 4. Ray's Girl (5); 5. Phillip's Choice (reserve) (6); 6. R.J.D. (4). 24, 2, 12, distance, distance, 28.03.

Non-runner: Fruity (6). Off 8.43.

Betting: 6-4 Day Out; 2-1 GEORGE; 5-1 Phillip's Choice; 8-1 R.J.D.; 10-1 others.

Forecast: £2/10-.

VIII (410yds)—1. CREAMY (4). Race declared void.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR LUTON TONIGHT

7.30 (410yds)—256 Dale; 125 Lucky Jim; 54 Kismet; 553 Robbie; 522 Sooty; 256 Tully San. Reserve: 232 Slipalona.

7.50 (470yds)—214 Bunter; 552 Consul; 234 Crayon; 114 Legion; 136 Sunny Sue; 524 Susannah. Reserve: 123 Just Jake.

8.06 (410yds)—156 Blue Monarch; Bridge (Jan 19, to 1, 24.72; Mar 6, to 1, 24.67; 461 Nagrom; 513 Old

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 1 Turner

PORTSMOUTH 0

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Kelly, Shanks; Pounder, Turner, Pearce, Groves, Adam.

PORTSMOUTH: Uprichard; McGhee, Mansell; Gunter, Rutter, Dickinson; Penk, Gordon, Henderson, Bernard, Harris.

Referee: C. W. Kingston. Newport, Mon. Attendance: 17,824.

Many movements began with Groves, who is more accurate in his passing since his spell at wing-half, and Adam had a good share of the ball all through the game.

Jones In His Most Polished Form

MUCH of the support for him came from Jones, who was in wonderful form in his most polished style.

The way in which he found Adam, particularly in the second half with passes many of them made first-time, was almost uncanny and neither Penk nor Harris, who shared the outside-right positions between them got any change out of him.

Nor was Dunne in much trouble and Morton and Chanks, taking a grip on the middle of the field had much to do with the superiority the Town gained in the second half.

There was little threat from the Portsmouth inside - forwards, though Gordon popped up dangerously in the Town goal-mouth once or twice in the first half.

Defence Kept Clean Sheet Again

WHAT threat there was mostly came from Harris, who switched about from wing to wing, and Henderson.

However, Harris was not so thrustful and speedy as he can be but Henderson managed to harass Kelly, who is not so certain on the harder grounds and in facing the livelier ball.

However, Kelly got through without any fatal errors and helped the defence to their second consecutive blank sheet.

Baynham did not have so much to do as the Irish International, Uprichard, and he always looked capable and safe.

Reserves Missed Scoring Chances

HAD they taken only a small proportion of the scoring chances that came their way the Town Reserves would not have left both points at Coventry on Saturday.

Apart from the fact that there was some doubt about whether both the Coventry goals should have been saved there was nothing wrong with the defence in which Sid Owen came through his second test strongly and successfully.

However, there was a complete lack of punch in the forward line, best of which was Davies, who made a lot of centres of which advantage was not taken.

He and Cullen combined quite nicely at times, but the left wing was poor and MacEwan could not finish.

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CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

INTERNATIONAL MATCH Scotland v. England

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

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

DIVISION III (SOUTH) Bournemouth v. Crystal Palace Brentford v. Newport County Colchester Utd. v. Southampton Coventry C. v. Torquay Utd.

Exeter C. v. Ipswich T. Gillingham v. Aldershot Leyton O. v. Shrewsbury T. Millwall v. Northampton T. Norwich C. v. Brighton Reading v. Q.P.R. Southend Utd. v. Walsall Watford v. Swinden T.

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

SELECTIONS TEN HOME: Blackpool, Wolves, Blackburn, Bristol Rovers, Nottingham Forest, Sheffield Wednesday, Leyton Orient, Southend, Accrington, Grimsby. FOUR AWAY: Manchester Utd., Leeds, Ipswich, Derby. THREE DRAWS: Chelsea v. Everton; Lincoln v. Bristol City; Chester v. Stockport.