TOWN FORWARDS HIT A NEW LOW IN LACK OF PUNCH

SELDOM DANGEROUS IN SCRAMBLING GAME

Series Of Mistakes Led To Sunderland's Vital Goal By Chiltern

EXCUSES for one of the most boring football matches I have seen for a long time were easy to advance and were advanced after the Town's defeat at Sunderland.

There was a strong, blustery wind playing tricks with the white ball, the turf was greasy and, of course, some difficulty was brought about by the floodlights which were used from the start.

But even allowing for all that, two teams with a regulation for constructive football should not have sunk to such a depth as this.

SUNDERLAND disappointed a leg in front of Owen and push their own supporters despite the ball through. their victory in this match of commual mistakes and misway ahead of the Town, willing fans should be pleased that this particular display was reserved for a ground so distant that very few were able to lo low them,

Not they could so easily have had a point, which would have halted their rather alarming drift towards the lower reaches of the First Division table.

The goal that decided it al the football in general, and it lways seemed a safe margin for Sunderland, so weak were the Iown forwards.

Back Pass Led To The Only Goal

I happened so early in the second half that Manager Daily Duncan had not returned to his seat from his half-time talk in the dressing-room and did not see it happen.

Right from the restart Sunderand made ground into the Iown's half, and Groves began the series of errors that led to the goal by making an illdvised and ill-directed back

The ball went in the general direction of Owen, with Fleming coming up fast. Perhaps because he was waiting for Streten to come out, Owen hesitated for a fraction of a second, and the next thing we knew was that the ball was in the back of the empty net, with Streten having made his advance just too late.

Owen Said, "It Was An Own Goal"

AT the time there seemed some doubt about who had applied the finishing touch, but the Sunderland players rushed to congratulate Fleming, and it looked legs and the ball was scrambled as if he had managed to stick out to safety.

So all the evidence pointed to

Fleming having the credit for the

goal, but, afterwards, Owen said

that the centre-forward did not

touch the ball and it was off his

foot that the ball went through.

Like much of the play, it was

a scrambling affair, but it proved

to be decisive because it increased

the determination of Sunderland,

who are showing the fighting

spirit that will probably enable

them to escape the drop to the

Town Attack Was

Punchless Affair

IN view of the complete mince-

made of Sunderland on two occa-

sions at Kenilworth-road, it was

surprising that substantially the

same defensive set-up should hold

the Luton forwards in such a

But the Luton attack these

days is a punchless, uninspired

affair that showed scarcely any

semblance of punch, and only on

rare occasions did they even

There should have been one

early on when Turner was pre-

sented with the sort of oppor-

tunity that usually means that

the ball finishes in the back of

the net, but this time he failed.

Turner Missed An

Easy Chance

to catch the Town and, with the

defenders standing awaiting the

open to him and covered as

by throwing himself sideways, a

successful manoeuvre because

Turner's shot struck him on the

Sunderland offside trap failed

meat the Town forwards have

Second Division.

promise a goal.

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43 PARK STREET

LUTON

Hedley, McDonald; Anderson, Daniel, Aitken; Bing-ham, Hope, Fleming, Shackle-ton, Elliott. LUTON TOWN: Streten;

FOR THE RECORDS

SUNDERLAND 1

LUTON TOWN 0

SUNDERLAND: Bollands:

Donne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Pemrce, Turner, Morton, Groves,

Referee: J. H. Clough, Bolton. Attendance: 28.473.

Apart from that incident and one when Morton nearly managed to lob the ball over the head of Bollands who had come out too far. the Town forwards spent most of the rest of the afternoon running into trouble.

Schemer Needed In Attack

SOME of their midfield work was pretty-and pretty ineffective, too-but the line not only lacked punch and drive, but it had no effective schemer.

thoroughly fit Cummins would be worth his weight in gold to the Town and it is only to be hoped that the strengthening exercises he is doing will enable him to make an early return to the team.

deputy because he wanted far in an inside-forward position too much time to do anything which, of course, would raise

his own goal. This held up the whole business and Groves always tended to keep the ball too close and was often caught in posses-

Situation Is Now Very Serious

TURNER just does not seem to be able to regain his best form and the fact that he cannot get among the goals is a handicap under which the Town are labouring heavily.

Add to that the fact that Morton was almost completely overshadowed by Daniel and that, in addition, his distribution was inaccurate, and the root cause of the present troubles become clear

Whether, after this latest poor display, Town officials will now be persuaded that the time has come to make an excursion into the transfer market, we can only wait and see, but the seriousness of the situation cannot be overemphasised.

Only Four Points Out of 18

THIS is no new problem, but it has now assumed such proportions that only four points have accrued from the last nine matches during the course of which the Town have scored only eight goals.

Failing the acquisition of reinforcements, it is difficult to see what the move will be when the team to meet Charlton on Saturday is chosen.

Morton looks unhappy at centre-forward and it might be Groves was not an adequate better to use his constructive skill

Normal Service, 454 Valant, 335

Woodpecker; reserve, 544 Dim and

8,86 (410 yarda).-525 Badger 234

Stipulone, 544 Cotney King, 551 Emperor, 5 Phoek, 456 Tiny Tim; reserve, 346 Little Noddy.

8.24 (470 yards).--615 Gail, 1 Lady

8.44 (470 yards).-211 Cokey Boy, 111

Connie's Friend, 14 Dunromin, 153

9.04 (410 yards).-556 Bally's Son,

325 Joan's Boy, 65 Nick, 54 Old Timer, 3 Rasputin, Yap (Nov. 29,

tp 3, 24.48, Dec. 13, tp 4, 24.48);

9.22 (478 yards).-445 Cookie, 45

Major Kelly, 114 Mariner, 212 Squeaker, 666 Snob, 152 The Brick;

9.40 (410 yards).-565 Crimson, 213

Double R., 642 Rita, 163 Sandman,

7.30-Tree Top (Pukka Gen, Rodney)

7.48-Farm Baby (Valant, Wood-

8.06 Badger (nap) (Colney King

8.44 Connie's Friend (King Sol.

9.22-Mariner (Cookie, Squeaker) 9.40-Smoky Joe (Double R., The

8.24 Patrick M (Persil, Ramona)

332 The Lodger, 223 Smoky Joe.

King Sol, 141 Spacer, 225 Tiger Tim.

Susan, 141 Patrick M., 141 Persil,

121 Ramona, 416 Sometimes.

reserve, 231 Parlez-Vous,

reserve, 241 Keep Moving.

pecker)

Flook)

Cokey Boy) 9.04-Yap (Bally's Son, Nick)

Lodger).

Greyhound Racing



FINISHES **PANCHO** PLACE IN SEVENTH RACI

AFTER finishing sixth in his last race, Pancho found his best form at Luton Stadium on Saturday and won the seventh race by two lengths from Office Boy.

Favourites won only three races, but there were no high-priced winners.

I (410 yds.)—1, MADHAT (6); Top; reserve, 426 Brickhill Lad.

2, Tony's Pet (5); 3 Ryan's Rose
(1); 4, Teezy-Weezy (4); 5, Ick-nield Cirl (2): 6 Section 10 Section 1 nield Girl (3); 6, Scamp (2); 8, 5, 1, 1, 2; 25.15. Off 6.44.

Betting: Evens MADHAT, 4-1

Tony's Pet, Teezy-Weezy, 5-1 Scamp, 7-1 Icknield Girl, 8-1 Ryan's Rose. Forecast: 12s, 9d. THIS was once when the

(470 yds.)-1, PAGE ONE (4); 2, Mary Ann (6); 3, Samsong (3); 4, Pepsi-Cola (1); 5, Just Jake (5); 6, Miss Jane (2); whistle, Turner was left with the chance of a life-time.

Bollands did the only thing open to him and covered as Jake, 8-1 Pepsi-Cola, 10-1 Miss much of the goal as he could

Forecast: 15s. 6d. III (410 yds.)-1, KEEP MOV-ING (5); 2, Adios (6); 3, Boston Brownie (1); 4, Meter (3); 5, Lady Rosa (4); 6, Plasterer (2); 1, 6, 1, 1, 3; 25.34. Off 7.25.

Betting: 2-1 Adios, 5-2 KEEP MOVING, 11-4 Meter, 5-1 Plasterer, 8-1 Boston Brownie, Lady

Forecast: £1 4s. 9d. IV (470 yds.)-1, DAZ (4); 2, Tin Ribs (6); 3, Wings (5); 4, No Lights (2); 5, Kismet (1); 6, High Tension (3); 8, 3, 2, 6, 8; 28.35. Off 7.44.

Betting: 6-4 Tin Ribs, 3-1 No Lights, 7-2 DAZ, 5-1 Wings, 10-1 others.

Forecast: 19s. V (470 yds.)—I. BOOTBLACK (5); 2, Easter Bonnet (2); 3, Trigger (1); 4, Our Bob (6); 5. Maid Marion (4); 6, Neddy (3); 21. head, 1, 1, 1: 28.54. Off 8.05. Betting: Evens BOOTBLACK. 9-4 Maid Marion. 5-1 Our Bob. 6-1 Trigger, 7-1 Easter Bonnet, 20-1 Neddy.

Forecast: £1 6s. 3d. VI (410 yds.)-1, LAUGHING BOY (6); 2, Tony Token (5). reserve; 3, Opera (2); 4, Citizen (1); 5, Fish and Chips (3); Ladylike (4), d.n.f., 3, 1, 6, 6; 25.08; non-runner Can't Wait (5). Off

Betting: 5-4 LAUGHING BOY, 4-1 Tony Token, Opera. Fish and Chips, 5-1 Citizen, 10-1 Ladylike.

Forecast: 12s. 6d. VII (470 yds.)-1, PANCHO 3); 2, Jimmy's Lil (6); 3, Dark Invader (2): 4. Running Water (1): 5. Office Boy (5): 6. Brisket (4); 2. 3, 2, 1, 2; 29.18. Off 8.44. Betting: 2-1 Office Boy, 5-2 mmy's Lil, Brisket, 4-1 PANCHO, 7-1 Dark Invader, 10-1 Running Water.

Forecast: £3 3s. 6d. VIII (410 yds.)-1 SHEILA'S CHOICE (1): 2. Lucky Blackie Coventry C v. Crystal Palace (2): 3, Lumberjack (3); 4. Minnie Gillingham v. Shrewsbury T (5); 5, Twink (6): 6. Andrew (4); 12, 4, 3, 3, 8: 25.07. Off 9.07. Betting: 7-4 Twink, 5-2 SHEILA'S CHOICE, 3-1 Lumber-jack, 4-1 Minnie, 5-1 Lucky Blackie. Andrew

Forecast: £2 11s. 3d. RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR

LUTON TONIGHT 7.30 (410 yards) -255 I ittle Albert, 64 Miss Patience, 665 Old Sal, 543 Crewe Alex v. Darlington

No Sign Of Cup-Tie Fever Yet

There is not much sign of Cup-tie fever in Luton and the usual rush to secure tickets when the Town are at home in

the Cup has not occurred yet.

Maybe it is that people are
pre-occupied with preparations for Christmas or maybe the present bleak spell through which the Town are going accounts for the fact that applications for tickets for the match with Aston Villa are a lot less than is generally the rule at this stage.

Yesterday's post was said to be an improvement on that of Saturday, but this match has certainly not caught the imagination of the public so

again the question of filling the leadership of the attack.

Pearce Liveliest Of The Forwards

ALTHOUGH he did not repeat his success of the previous week. Pearce was the liveliest of the forwards, particularly when, during the second half, he began to come inside looking for the

Otherwise there was little support for him, and the same applied to Adam, who scared Sunderland with a couple of electric runs during the first half.

Thereafter, Hedley, that very capable full-back, marked the winger closely and little threat came after the interval from Adam, who gave little indication that he has gained increased accuracy in his finishing.

An Added Burden On The Defence

CONTINUED ineffectiveness of carned all the credit marks that dreary affair.

their Sunderland counterparts, who were made a present of the ball time after time by bad passing.

In fact, the Town owed a debt to Streten that they reached the interval on level terms, for he made three great saves and generally played so well as to revive the arguments when the comparative merits of him and Baynham are discussed,

Owen Had Much Awkward Work

FROM Sunderland there was lot of biff-bang football with hard following up by the forwards and there was no question about them being the more for six-a-side hockey. dangerous team.

Owen stood up to quite a lot of awkward work splendidly, so that Fleming was not often dangerous, and Shanks was another who kept working throughout the piece and was the better of the wing-halves.

Although Shackleton was so little in the game that he was barracked by his own supporters. Pemberton was not quite at his best and, like the others, his distribution was off the beam. and that is usually the strongest point of his display.

Strong Wind Was A Handicap

LIERE, it should be admitted that conditions made passing of any length a hazardous matter because the wind played all sorts of tricks with the ball and there

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I Arsenal v. Birmingham C Aston Villa v. Manchester C Bolton W. v. Everton. Burnley v. Cardiff C Leeds U v. Tottenhaun H Laton T v Charlton Ath Manchester U v. West Brom Newcastle U v. Sunderland Preston N.E. v. Chelsea Shelleid W v. Portsmouth Wolves v. Blackpool DIVISION II

Bristol R v. Doncaster R Fulham v. Nottingham Forest Leicester C v. Stoke C Leyton O v. Huddersfield T Lincoln C v. Blackburn R Liverpool v. Bury Middleshrough v. Barnsley Notis Co v. Grimsby T Port Vale v. Shellleld U Rotherham U v. Bristol C

Swansea T v. West Ham

DIVISION III (SOUTH) Breatford v. Aldershot Brighton v. Walsall Colchester U v. Northampton 1 Millwall v. Ipswich T Newport Co v. Q.P.R. Norwich C v. Southend U Reading v. Plymouth A Southampton v. Exeter C Swindon T v. Watford

Torquay U v. Bournemouth DIVISION III (NORTH) Accrington S v. Oldham Ath Bradford C v. Chesterfield Carlisle U v. Mansfield T

Derby Co v. Bradford Halifax T v. Workington Hartlepools U v Chester Rochdale v. Hull C Scunthorpe U v. Barrow Stockport Co v. Southport Tranmere R v. York C. Wrexham v. Gateshead

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION I

Aberdeen v. Motherwell Airdriconians v. Celtic Dunfermline v. Hibernian East Fife v. Dundee Falkirk v. Raith Rovers Hearts v. Queen of South Kilmarnock v. Rangers Partick T v. St Mirren Queen's Park v. Ayr U DIVISION II

Arbroath v. Third Lanark Berwick R v. Stenhousemuir Brechin C v. Stranraer Chyde v. Forfar Ath Dumbarton v. Albion R Dundee U v. East Stirling Hamilton v. Surling A Morton v. Montrose St Johnstone v. Cowdenbeath

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME. - Bolton, Manchester U. Sheffield W. Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Brighton, Southampton, Derby, Hartlepools, Stockport.

FOUR AWAY. — Blackburn. Sheffield U. Ipswich, York. THREE DRAWS.-Arsenal v. Birmingham, Fulham v. Nottingham Forest, Bradford C v. Chesterfield.

of the errors that were made. But it did not excuse the unimaginative football produced by both teams and the monder was that so many of the supporters stayed to see the end. Of coping with the speedy Bingham, Aherne made a most effective job and he has nad a remarkably successful come-back

Owen's Gambler's Throw Failed

to First Division Football.

ALTHOUGH he sometimes allowed Elliott too much room, Dunne did well, but the troubles of the Town defence could have been increased considerably had Sunderland been better in front of goal.

As it was Streten had his work cut out several times to prevent the home team from gaining a more decisive victory.

Right from the time that Sunderland gained their goal, they seemed safely on the way to two points and they gained them comfortably enough despite the fact that Owen made a gambler's throw in the closing minutes and went up into the forward line, but no opportunity came his way.

Reserves Know The Way To Score

WHATEVER the shortcomings of the first team, the Reserves know how to score goals and, apart from the early weeks of the season, the matches in which the Reserves have participated have so far as football and goals are concerned, been far more exciting than the majority of First Division matches staged at Kenilworth-

COURSE FOR **CRICKETERS** In the past, there has been a

great need in Bedfordshire for the forwards is throwing an facilities for cricket coaching and added burden on the defence, who net practice during the vinter months, but the county club, in come the way of the Town in this conjunction with the Central dreary affair. Even so, they looked more has now been granted the use worried under pressure than did of the gymnasium at R.A.F., Cardington.

Accordingly, they have arranged to hold four courses beginning early next month and are hoping that cricketers will take this opportunity of developing their A panel of coaches will be

headed by the Northants captain, Dennis Brookes, who will be helped by K. McCanlis, an umpire on the first-class list, who played for Surrey and Bedfordshire, George August and Sid Morris, of Bedfordshire, while John Oliver has also been invited to join the panel. Facilities at Cardington are also

being used for a course for hockey players, which began last week, and there is ample space

In their last three home games the Reserves have scored 17 goals and on Saturday they beat Queen's Park Rangers Reserves even more comfortably than the score of 5-0 suggests.

Might Have Had Double Figures

THE mystery was why Luton did not at least double their score. They certainly had sufficient chances to do so, and the Rangers were absolutely outclassed in all departments.

So superior were Luton that they were inclined to get a triff: lackadassical in their finishing in the second half, and chances which would normally have been snapped up were let go begging because players tried to overelaborate instead of shooting

first time. But they could afford to be over-confident, for the visiting forwards were so weak that Collier had just about the easiest afternoon ever in his career as goalkeeper.

Collier Was Rarely **Brought Into Action**

IN the first half he made only one save from a Rangers forward, and practically his only occupation was to meet the occasional back passes from his full-

After the interval he was twice as busy. He saved two direct shots and actually had to fist an effort round the post for a corner! Luton scored first through Leslie Jones, who shot from a few yards inside the visitors' half. The ball sailed over the goalkeeper's head and into the net.

Barry Hawkes scored the second a few minutes later, and Gregory. meeting the rebound after Davies had hit the woodwork, made it three before half-time Rhodes (own goal) and Davies, scored in the second half.

The woodwork saved Rangers on three other occasions, and the spectators lost count of the number of near misses.

Duggan Takes His Tally To 26 THERE seems to be no stopping

the Town's third team, who are scoring just as prolifically as the Reserves. Man behind their successes is

undoubtedly Ted Duggan, and this experienced player, veteran of the Town's pre-war team, scored two more goals against Wokingham on Saturday. He now has 26 Metropolitan League goals to his credit,

Saturday's 5-1 victory was welldeserved, even though the home team scored first. Collins equalised with a long shot. Duggan added two and Dixon made it

Hills scored Luton's fifth in a more even second half. Dixon, one of the Town's latest acquisitions, accepted his opportunity coolly and looks as if he will be a real asset.

Luton Town Football Club F.A. CUP—3rd Round

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1957 Luton Town v. Aston Villa

Kick-off 2.15 p.m. Admission by TICKET ONLY to:

STAND SEATS 7/6 ENCLOSURE (Standing) 5/-, boys 3/-

BOBBERS' STAND (Standing) 3/-, boys 2/-STAND SEASON TICKET HOLDERS must make written application to the Kenilworth-road Office, Luton, marking the envelope "Season Ticket Holder," enclosing remittance, stamped addressed envelope and appropriate "Blue" slip

marked "Round 3" from their Season Ticket Book. POSTAL applications only, which must be received not later than Saturday, December 29. It is not possible, on this occasion, to allocate to Season Ticket Helders in Block "E" their usual seat.

Owing to the number of Stand Season Ticket Holders, and after supplying Aston Villa with their quota, it is regretted that NO Stand Seats are available for non-Season Ticket Holders.

ENCLOSURE Tickets can be obtained by postal application only to the Kenilworth-road Office, Luton, with remittance and stamped addressed envelope. A limited number will be on sale at the Bobbers' Club, Beech Hill-path, Luton, as from 6 p.m. on Monday next,

December 17. Tickets for the BOBBERS' STAND, including Bobbers' Stand Season Ticket Holders, will be on sale at the Bobbers' Club, Beech Hill-path, Luton, as from 6 p.m. on Thursday next (December 20). A limited number will be available for postal applicants to the Kenilworth-road Office, who must enclose remittance and stamped addressed envelope.

KENILWORTH ROAD TERRACE: NO TICKETS. Pay at Turnstiles on entry to ground. 2s. Boys 1s. All prices include Entertainment Tax - P COLLY, Secretary,

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