

BRILLIANT DEBUT BY TOWN'S NEW STAR

Defence Fought Hard To Hold Narrow Advantage

By Chiltern

LEEDS UNITED 1, LUTON TOWN 2

AGAINST the book of current form, the Town collected their first points of 1957 at Elland-road on Saturday and, what is more, deserved them.

Hopes of halting the run of defeats that has come their way lessened perceptibly on the morning of the match when Turner had to cry off because of a boil on a knee.

That caused a late re-shuffle of the forward line, but his absence was more than compensated for by the presence in the team for the first time of Scottish International, Allan Brown.

"Tailor made for our requirements," was what we were told before the business was completed and, judging from the events at Leeds, truer words were never spoken.

In a magnificent debut for his new club, Brown, a powerfully built inside-forward, with almost uncanny accuracy in his distribution of the ball, was the architect of the success that does much to remove the relegation scare worry.

Despite the unfamiliar look which the forward line wore, they were a more potent force in the first half than in any away match for some time and most of this could be traced to the influence of Brown.

Right from the start, he settled down and did the work which led to the Town taking the lead in five minutes. Picking up the ball in midfield, he began a long, raking run which took him past two opponents and landed him nearly in the penalty area.

Then came a low pass which sped straight as a bullet over to the left where McLEOD was waiting and he ran on to the ball and crashed it between Wood and the near post for his first League goal.

BROWN SCORED WINNER

With the benefit of that flying start, the Town's cause prospered, but hopes sank in the 17th minute when CHARLES scrambled through a centre by Overfield after Pearce had made his only mistake of the match.

However, four minutes later, BROWN was in the picture again when, picking up a clearance from a corner, he took aim from the edge of the penalty area and his low drive beat Wood who reached it with his hands at full length, but the ball hit the inside of the post and rebounded into the net.

That proved to be the limit of the scoring, but both goals had escapes and the Town had chances to have made their position more comfortable by half time.

However, with Brown prompting, they played better football than Leeds who relied overmuch on the dashes of Charles and the speed of Overfield.

Desperately, Leeds fought for an equaliser in the second half when gradually the Town's role became more and more defensive.

BOTH BARS WERE HIT

Baynham made a couple of great saves, Charles missed narrowly twice and then headed against the bar but, in the main, the Town defence was very steady, and the balance of near things was re-adjusted when, with bare minutes remaining, Brown made another strong run which he finished with a shot that struck the bar.

Brown was outstanding in the Town attack and his strength and football ability gave confidence to the remainder of his front line colleagues.

Always he was contriving to keep play open, with the result that McLeod benefited from a number of cross field passes and did so well as to suggest that

outside-left will become his permanent position.

Pressed into service at outside-right, a position he forsook some years ago, Shanks fought and challenged for everything and used the ball quite well, too.

In the first half, Groves fitted into the general scheme of things, though he could still speed up his play, and Davies, hard though he tried, did not suggest that he was other than an emergency centre-forward.

PEARCE DID A FINE JOB

Problem spot in defence, of course, was left-half, with the considerable task of watching Charles awaiting the occupant of the position. Pearce was given the job and so well did he accomplish it, that his colleagues applauded him into the dressing room.

Twice in the second half he made tackles in front of goal when Charles looked certain to score, and, all through, he was close to the Welsh giant.

Both Charles and Forrest often tried to force a way down the



ALLAN BROWN
will be making his home
debut for Luton.

middle, but found that they were faced not only by the determined Pearce, but by Owen in a grim, give-nothing-away mood, with the result that this route was very well sealed.

Completing a strong middle line was Morton and Aherne made a successful return to the side by putting the shackles on Meek. Dunne could not do the same with Overfield whose speed and trickiness was always a worry and a lot of danger emanated from this quarter.

A fully confident Baynham fully justified his recall, for he made at least four saves that were in the superlative class and he did invaluable work in cutting out high crosses.

LEEDS UNITED: Wood; Dunn, Hair; Gibson, Marsden, Kerfoot; Meek, Charles, Forrest, Crowe, Overfield.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Pearce; Shanks, Brown, Davies, Groves, McLeod.

Referee: J. Barradell, Loughborough.

Other Critics :

GAVE RAVE NOTICES TO BROWN

Every player dreams of a perfect debut. For Allan Brown it was a dream come true on Saturday at Leeds.

So well did he play that the national newspaper critics were apt to forget that there are 11 men in every team. It was Brown, Brown, Brown, and the newcomer stole all the thunder. All the critics said that if he maintains this form Brown will certainly get the Town away from the relegation zone.

Here are some quotes:

"Brown made the sort of debut for his new club that every player dreams about. Victory will spur on Luton in their fight against relegation." — "The People."

"No-one could subdue Brown. The Scottish international gave a wonderful display of clever, constructive forward play, and his long crosses were a joy to watch. For those who appreciate the subtle and artistic his performance alone was worth the price of admission." — "Yorkshire Post."

"Allan Brown is going to do real things for Luton if this game is any guide. He had a superb first half. By and large the points went to the right side." — "Sunday Express."

"Even with eight positional changes, and without Turner, Luton were still better than ragged Leeds." — "Reynolds News."

"Luton have soon been rewarded for their signing Allan Brown, the tall Scottish inside-forward from Blackpool. It was no coincidence that Brown's first appearance should bring Luton only their second away win of the season." — "News of the World."

"Brown marked his debut by setting an example which had such a tonic effect on his colleagues that they upset the odds at Elland-road to gain their first League win since December 22." — "Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

"Brown, playing his first game for Luton, proved a match-winner in a thrilling, if not particularly skilful, struggle." — "Sunday Dispatch."

"Allan Brown . . . made a great start with his new club." — "Sunday Graphic."

"Brown . . . was great. He and no other won this match for Luton. What is more important, he injected into Luton that fighting spirit—will to win." — "Sunday Pictorial."