

TURNER, HURT, MAY MISS SATURDAY

Pompey Fans Upset About Hole In Luton Net

By Chiltern

A GREAT fight back by a Town team severely handicapped by having Turner a limping passenger for the whole of the second half brought them from Portsmouth last night a point that just about puts out of court any question of relegation.

News of Turner seemed none too happy, and it must be certain that he can be ruled out for Saturday.

In the first half the Town was thrown right out of their stride by the desperate tactics of Portsmouth, who hit the ball hard and often, and worried the Town defence with their dash and speed.

Strangely, though, despite their handicap, the defence showed more composure after the interval when they gained a grip on the whole front line, and the half-backs broke up many an attack with Owen again stopping the middle of the field.

Despite their handicap, the Town managed to have a fair share of the play after the interval and even had chances of snatching a winner but it was to half-back Morton that they were indebted for this hard won point because he came along with a tremendous goal.

FULL MARKS

A fight it was from start to finish, and the Town earn full marks for their pluck and their refusal to give up even in the face of dire adversity, which is what an injury to Turner always is.

Talking point of this game was what seemed to be a winner for Portsmouth which the referee disallowed on the ground that the ball had gone through the side net.

His decision earned him loud booing from the home supporters and the last quarter of an hour was played in a tense atmosphere.

Teams:

PORTSMOUTH: Barrett; Wilson, Mansell; Albury, Dickinson, Pickett; Gordon, McClellan, Henderson, Weddle, Dale.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, McNally; Morton, Owen, Pearce; Shanks, Turner, Groves, Brown, McLeod.

Referee: A. Bond, London.

Portsmouth, desperate for points, made six changes, two of them positional, and Upchurch, McGee and Gunter were dropped.

Portsmouth, fast and direct were the more dangerous, and took the lead in five minutes through DALE, who was left with an easy chance following some slack defensive covering after a centre by Gordon.

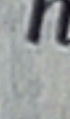
BROWN SWITCHED

Already Brown had switched to centre-forward but the Town attack was not having much of a look in.

Henderson missed a chance through over-running the ball, and then in a snap movement the Town equalised through TURNER with a great drive from 20 yards that just got in under the bar.

Shanks laid on the chance with a beautiful through pass,

Portsmouth, however, looked



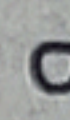
How The Goals Came

DALE for Portsmouth after 5 minutes.

TURNER for Luton after nine minutes.

WEDDLE for Portsmouth after 32 minutes.

MORTON for Luton after 72 minutes.



the more dangerous, but the Town defence was settling down.

Brown made a great attempt to put the Town ahead with a long run from Groves's pass, and his shot cannoned off Barrett for a corner.

Then Weddle, blazing away first time, sent too high.

Play continued to be fast and keen as befitted an occasion that was most important to both teams.

Baynham saved at point-blank range from Dale and McClellan when a goal looked imminent.

The Portsmouth pressure grew in intensity and they deserved to take the lead through WEDDLE after 32 minutes.

He cracked the ball home during a hectic goalmouth scramble following a corner by Gordon.

For some time we had seen little of the Town forward line and Portsmouth, going to meet the ball all the time, had taken a grip.

They were moving the ball about quickly and following up with much determination.

For quite a time the Town were forced back on the defensive and when they got away Turner injured a leg and was helped over the touchline for attention.

When this happened there were six minutes to go to half-time.

With ten men the Town suddenly attacked heavily and a centre by Brown went across the face of the goal with no-one able to reach it.

Then it was Portsmouth's turn and Baynham brilliantly pulled down a high cross by Gordon.

Meanwhile Turner was limping painfully, helped by the trainer, around the ground in the direction of the dressing room, which was an ominous sign. Half-time:

PORTSMOUTH 2

LUTON 1

Turner had damaged his left ankle and did not return for the start of the second half.

In addition, during the interval, Pearce complained of a pulled calf muscle though he resumed in his original position.

TURNER BACK

Four minutes after the interval Turner returned in time to see Dunrie in need of attention for a slight knock.

Turner was hobbling about in considerable discomfort and it was obvious that he could be no more than a passenger. He remained in the middle of the field though.

Play was still exceptionally keen but, despite their advantage, Portsmouth were not looking so dangerous as they had in the first half.

Barrett saved a free kick from Turner for hands and the Town were putting up a fight.

Nearest approach to a goal came when Weddle had a shot deflected into the side net.

But neither team showed a great deal of finishing power, though Albury was not far off with a long-range effort.

MORTON EQUALISES

Then with 72 minutes gone, MORTON gained a magnificent equaliser for the Town.

He set Shanks going, ran into position for the return pass and turning goalwards beat Barnett with a left-footed drive from over 20 yards that got in just under the bar.

Two minutes later Henderson made a determined break through and landed the ball into the net. Immediately there was an appeal by Baynham taken up by other Town players that the ball had gone through the side net.

The referee examined the net found a hole in it and disallowed the goal after consultation with a linesman.

The net was repaired and play resumed in an uproar of booing from the disappointed home fans.

It was a grim fight now, and Gordon shot wide of the far post from quite a good position.

First Groves, then McLeod missed easy chances in front of goal after Brown, shooting from point-blank range, had struck Barnett.

One of the three should have put the Town ahead.

It was tense stuff now with Portsmouth making a late rally that brought some scrambles in front of the Town goal.

Dale shot wide of the far post and the Town hung on desperately. Result:

PORTSMOUTH 2

LUTON 2

Attendance: 22,438.