

DOUBTS ABOUT TOMORROW'S TEAM STILL EXIST

50-50 CHANCES FOR DUNNE AND PEARCE

By Chiltern

FAILURE of the Town to retain even a single point from their home match with Burnley puts the strain on again for their meeting with Portsmouth at Kenilworth-road tomorrow night.

After their defeat at Tottenham, Portsmouth are still firmly embroiled in the relegation struggle and this is one of the two matches which they have in hand over Sunderland and Cardiff, their companions in distress.

While it was too early yesterday for the Town to be in a position to make any firm decision about their team, there are still doubts about the players who missed Saturday's game.

WALLY SHANKS, who has made the quickest recovery of the four, is pretty certain to be available, and he was training yesterday, though he still feels some slight pain in his foot.

For Scamus Dunne and Reg Pearce, both of whom were having heat treatment, trainer Jack Crompton told me yesterday that there was a 50-50 chance of them being in the line-up.

Dunne has a bruised ankle, which has improved over the week-end and, after treatment, was able to do some light training. Also making progress is Pearce, whose trouble is a strained calf muscle, but Gordon Turner is unlikely to be considered against Portsmouth.

For Weddle. However, that can only be a matter of surprise.

The team that played at White Hart-lane was: Barnett; McGhee, Mansell; Albury, Dickinson, Pickett; Gordon, McClellan, Henderson, Weddle, Dale.

Town Expecting A Hard Struggle

REPORTS that Portsmouth played tip-tap football and did not show a lot of fighting power at Tottenham must have come as a surprise to the Town players after the tough encounter they had at Fratton Park.

Certainly, Portsmouth showed any amount of fight and determination on that occasion, but maybe they need the spur and encouragement of the enthusiasm of their own crowd.

Be that as it may, the Town will go into this match expecting a hard, difficult struggle and watching for a repetition of the terrific speed with which the Portsmouth forwards moved in the opening half an hour last Wednesday.

Have Gained Eight Away Points

AWAY record of Portsmouth is better than that of most of their fellow - strugglers, and although they have won only once, by 3-1 at Charlton, who have been a chopping block for a lot of teams, they have eight points to their credit in 16 matches.

Draws were gained at Burnley (1-1), Chelsea (3-3), Sunderland (3-3), Everton (2-2), Arsenal (1-1) and Aston Villa (2-2). Their nine defeats were at Newcastle (2-1), Birmingham (3-1), Manchester United (3-0), Wolves (6-0), Manchester City (5-1).

Only Two Favourites Won On Saturday

ONLY two favourites won at Luton on Saturday night, but winning prices were not extraordinarily high. Husky was the highest-priced winner, at 6-1.

I (410 yards)—1, CAREFREE (1); 2, Ryan's Rose (6); 3, Miss Patience (2); 4, Brickhill Lad (4); 5, Lady Rosa (5). Head, 5, 10, 4, 25.35. Non-runner: Cisco Kid (3). Off 6.43.
Betting: 6-4 Miss Patience; 2-1 CAREFREE; 5-2 Ryan's Rose; 8-1 Brickhill Lad; 10-1 Lady Rosa.
Forecast £10/6.

II (470 yards)—1, CRIMSON (1); 2, Belavista (3); 3, Badger (2); 4, Jimmy's Lil (5); 5, Pancho (6); 6, Gold Star (4). Head, neck, 6, 8, 28.26. Off 7.04.
Betting: 9-4 Jimmy's Lil; 3-1 CRIMSON; 4-1 Belavista, Pancho; 6-1 Badger; 7-1 Gold Star.
Forecast £11/6/9.

III (410 yards)—1, TWADDLE (6); 2, Plasterer (5); 3, Cracklings (4); 4, Marilyn (3); 5, Tiny Tim (1); 6, Just Jake (2). Head, 3, 3, 8, 25.30. Off 7.22.
Betting: 5-4 Plasterer; 3-1 TWADDLE; 5-1 Cracklings; 6-1 Marilyn; 8-1 others.
Forecast 16/6.

IV (410 yards)—1, HUSKY (3); 2, Coq D'Or (6); 3, Squeaker (2); 4, Gusto (4); 5, Olive (5); 6, Rasputin (1). Head, 3, 5, 1, 24.59. Off 7.42.
Betting: 9-4 Coq D'Or; 5-2 Squeaker, Olive; 6-1 HUSKY, Gusto; 8-1 Rasputin.
Forecast £3/17/6.

V (470 yards)—1, NICE FELLA (5); 2, Lucy (2); 3, Wild Rose (4); 4, What's This (6); 5, Ramona (1). Head, 3, 6, 4, 27.48. Non-runner: Maid Marion (3). Off 8.05.
Betting: 2-1 NICE FELLA, Wild Rose; 4-1 Lucy; 6-1 Ramona; 8-1 What's This.
Forecast £11/1/3.

VI (410 yards)—1, WINGS (1); 2, Learner (5); 3, Light and Light (3) reserve; 4, Page One (6); 5, Citizen (2); 6, Banger (4). Head, 4, 11, 3, 24.52. Non-runner: Redshank (3). Off 8.25.
Betting: 2-1 Learner; 4-1 Banger, Light and Light, Citizen; 9-2 WINGS; 7-1 Page One.
Forecast £2/7/3.

VII (470 yards)—1, MICKEY DRIP (3) and FRONT PAGE (4), dead heat; 3, Rambler (1); 4, Double R (6); 5, My Beauty (5); 6, Workboy (2). Head, 3, 4, 8, 28.57. Off 8.45.
Betting: 6-4 My Beauty; 3-1 MICKEY DRIP; 5-1 FRONT PAGE, Rambler; 6-1 others.
Forecast £1/7/6, £1/10/3.

VIII (410 yards)—1, OUR SALLY (5); 2, The Lodger (6);

Leeds (4-1), Preston (7-1), West Brom (2-1) and Tottenham (2-0). Leading goalscorers are: Gordon (11), Henderson and Harris each 8, McClellan (5) and Weddle and Dale each 3.

Were Never Allowed To Settle Down

ALTHOUGH the rain on Sunday eased the going at Kenilworth - road, some more before this match would improve conditions.

The liveliness of the ball was one of the reasons for the poor match we saw with Burnley. Another was the spoiling tactics adopted from the start by the Lancashire team who have the best defensive record in Division I.

Never did they allow the Town forwards to settle down and time and time again they were in the tackle before the Town could get the ball under control, which was quite a business in these conditions.

Brown Was Always Closely Watched

YET, the Town had their chances, particularly during the early part of the match, but with Turner an enforced spectator, there was not much punch at close quarters.

Man who was expected to provide this, Brown, was carefully watched from start to finish and it was not unusual to see two, sometimes more, defenders converging on him when he looked as if he might be dangerous.

Whether he was at centre-forward or inside-right and there was a great d-aling of switching about by the forwards as a whole. Brown just could not find a way through this defence and he found a great deal of difficulty in keeping possession of the light ball, which did not run for him either.

Missed Penalty Was Crowning Disaster

CROWNING disaster from the Town point of view came just before the end when a great opportunity of salvaging a point arrived when the referee penalised Winton for bringing down Cummins.

Appeals by Burnley were turned down firmly and Brown was entrusted with the kick, though I am told that he did not want to take it when the moment arrived because he had a slight cut on his knee.

However, the original arrangement stood and to the chagrin of all Town supporters he shot straight at McDonald, who stopped the ball with his feet.

For The Records

LUTON TOWN 0
BURNLEY 2
Shackleton, Cheesborough
LUTON TOWN: Baynam; Jones, McNally; Morton, Owen, Smith; Cullen, Brown, Groves, Cummins, McLeod.
BURNLEY: McDonald; Angus, Winton; Seith, Miller, Shannon; Newlands, McIlroy, Shackleton, Cheesborough, Pilkington.
Referee: T. Jepson, Mansfield. Attendance: 16,403.

Changes Upset The Rhythm Of Team

THAT should have been the equaliser to a scrambled goal secured by Shackleton in the 23rd minute, and it was the end so far as the Town were concerned.

The fact that Burnley obtained another streaky goal through Cheesborough, two minutes from time, was neither here nor there.

More of the play went the Town's way throughout, but the enforced changes had upset the rhythm of the team and there was little cohesion or understanding about the attack.

Certainly they were thrown right out of their stride by the rugged tactics of the Burnley defenders, who were not upset at being penalised for fouls time and again.

Does Not Make For Attractive Play

THIS is the sort of team against which the Town seldom do well. That Burnley won will, I suppose, be their justification for the methods they adopted, but defence in depth and reliance on snap raids mostly through the directness of their wingers, does not make for attractive football.

Result was a very mediocre exhibition with the Town frankly disappointing in their efforts to overcome the difficulties with which they were faced.

Even so, they should not have lost this match, nor would they have done had they made use of their chances, but Turner's opportunism was badly missed, and so was Pearce from the middle line.

Link-up Of Pearce Was Missed

IN recent weeks, a lot of the Town's strength has been in the middle line, where Pearce has been in brilliant form and the same link-up with the men in front was not there.

Smith was a hard trier, but he is at his best when the going is soft and the ball is sticking a bit, and his distribution after quite a promising start, became very inaccurate. Nor could he really get to grips with McIlroy.

Morton tried hard to carve out openings, and, in fact, did rather too much in this direction, because I thought he tended to crowd the forwards in the first half.

However, Morton was one of the few whose reputation did not suffer unduly. Another was Owen, who did not find Shackleton posing anything very difficult in the way of a problem, and he was mostly in command of the middle.

One Of The Very Few Worthwhile Efforts

MOST worry to the Town defence came from Newlands and Pilkington, and McNally had an anxious time against the former when he was inclined to allow him too much scope.

Jones was the more polished player, but again he rarely got into the tackle and was inclined to fiddle and be too casual something that causes a deal of aggravation to the fans.

One of the best things in the match was a magnificent one-handed save by Baynam from a raking drive by McIlroy, one of the few worthwhile or memorable scoring efforts.

Otherwise, Baynam was not kept very busy and when both goals were scored, the ball was scrambled through during melées.

Faded Out After Promising Start

AFTER a bright start, when he produced a few of his defence-splitting passes, Cummins faded out and missed a good chance to re-establish his claim for a first-team place.

Although he was always trying to use the ball to advantage, Groves's liking for holding it

led to him meeting trouble against this grim tackling and Brown just could not get going.

Most promise is the first half came from McLeod, and it was Cullen, though he still is not direct enough, who used the ball best of the line after the interval.

What openings there were, and these were few, usually emanated from this quarter.

Swindon's "Double" Over Reserves

THE Reserves were beaten 2-1—rather surprisingly—by lowly Swindon, who are by no means one of the most powerful sides in the Football Combination.

But, on Saturday, Luton deserved at least a point, and would have brought one back with them had they shown a little more punch in front of goal.

Adam And Scott Were The Pick

AS it was, their approach to work was good enough, with Adam at his best. The left-winger was in brilliant mood, and Davies was a strong raider at inside-right.

McQuillan, the Town's latest professional signing, making his debut in his new colours, had a quiet game on the right wing, and it was difficult to assess his form. One player who did give a very good display was George Scott, the centre-half who is on a month's trial with Luton.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

F.A. CUP—SEMI-FINALS
Birmingham C v Manchester Utd
Aston Villa v West Brom

DIVISION I
Arsenal v Wolves
Cardiff C v Charlton Ath
Newcastle Utd v Tottenham H
Portsmouth v Everton
Preston N.E. v Luton T

DIVISION II
Bristol R v Swansea T
Bury v Sheffield Utd
Doncaster R v Blackburn R
Grimsby T v Bristol C
Huddersfield T v Barnsley
Leicester C v Fulham
Leyton Orient v Port Vale
Liverpool v Rotherham Utd
Middlesbrough v Nottingham F
Notts County v Lincoln C
Stoke C v West Ham

DIVISION III (SOUTH)
Aldershot v Southampton
Bournemouth v Q.P.R.
Brentford v Coventry C
Brighton v Newport County
Gillingham v Colchester Utd
Ipswich T v Northampton T
Millwall v Reading
Sheff Wednesday T v Crystal Palace
Swindon T v Norwich C
Torquay Utd v Plymouth A
Walsall v Southend Utd
Watford v Exeter C

DIVISION III (NORTH)
Accrington S v Crewe Alex
Bradford C v Halifax T
Carlisle Utd v Scunthorpe Utd
Chester v Hull C

Chesterfield v Barrow
Hartlepool Utd v Workington
Mansfield T v Bradford
Oxford Ath v Gateshead
Southport v Darlington
Stockport County v Rochdale
Tranmere R v Darby County
York C v Wrexham

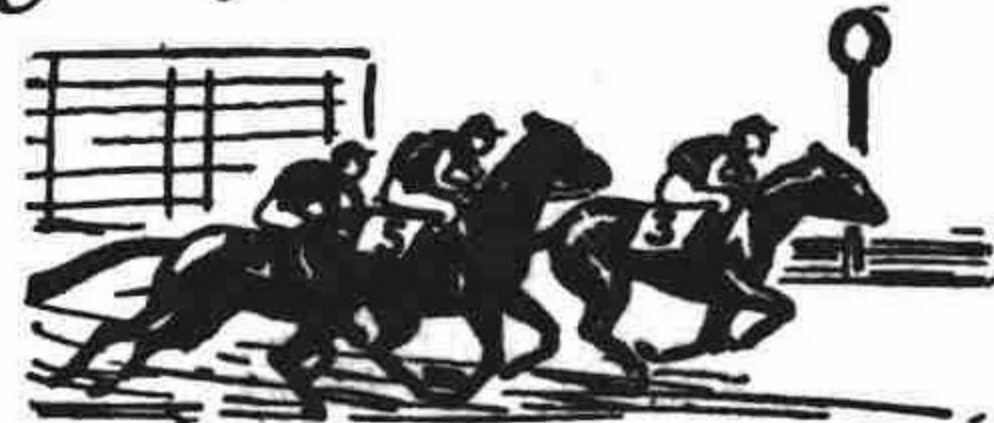
SCOTTISH CUP
SEMI-FINALS
Celtic v Kilmarnock
Rath Rovers v Falkirk

SCOTTISH LEAGUE
DIVISION I
Aberdeen v Rangers
Airdrieonians v Dundee
Ayr Utd v Dunfermline
Hibernian v East Fife
St Mirren v Motherwell

DIVISION II
Aberdeen v Forfar Ath
Arbroath v Stenhousemuir
Berwick R v East Stirling
Brechin C v St. Johnstone
Clyde v Albion R
Dumbarton v Morton
Dundee Utd v Montrose
Hamilton v Third Lanark
Stranraer v Stirling A

TEN HOME: Cardiff, Bristol Rovers, Leicester, Liverpool, Stoke, Bournemouth, Ipswich, Torquay, Accrington, Bradford C.
FOUR AWAY: Tottenham, Sheffield Utd, Colchester, Derby.
THREE DRAWS: Arsenal v Wolves; Doncaster v Blackburn; Swindon v Norwich.

They're Off!



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Death

DAVENPORT, Edward Harry, 104, Scymour-road, Luton, aged 67, died March 17, 1957. Cremation Enfield. Thursday morning. Cut flowers by request.

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FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.

The League : Division I

WEDNESDAY, 26th MARCH

LUTON TOWN

PORTSMOUTH

Kick-off 7.15 p.m. — Floodlight

Admission: Centre Stand 7/-

Wing Stand 5/6; Enclosure 4/-

Boys 2/-; Bobbers' Stand 3/-

Boys 1/3; Terraces (not covered) 2/-, Boys 1/-.