

GALLANT DEFENSIVE WORK SAVED POINT

Magnificent Baynham Was In Unbeatable Form BY CHILTERN

CARDIFF CITY 0, LUTON TOWN 0

"EVERY goalkeeper who comes to Ninian Park seems to play a blinder," complained the Cardiff Manager, Trevor Morris after he had watched a point being literally "stolen" as the result of a magnificent display by Baynham.

But, at the same time, he was quick to pay tribute to the gallantry of Baynham who, particularly in the second half, when the Cardiff pressure was at its height, saved shots from all manner of angles.

Twice he was badly shaken up in collisions and, on the second occasion, two minutes from the end, cut his mouth, loosened some teeth and received a cut on his nose. Pluckily he carried on to finish a most capable job.

Another who did a man-sized job was Owen who threw back attack after attack until after 18 minutes of the second half he pulled a thigh muscle when stretching to clear.

After going to the trainers' bench to have it strapped, he returned to centre-forward, with Morton moving into the middle and Brown dropping back to right-half.

These enforced alterations seemed to give Cardiff a chance of collecting the other badly needed point a real boost, but, bravely, the re-constructed defence battled on and Baynham continued to be unbeatable.

It was a real hammering that the Town defence underwent in the second half, with Cardiff's enthusiastic forwards driven on by the warm encouragement they received from their supporters.

NEARLY HAD EARLY GOAL

Not a great deal was seen of the Town forwards after the interval, but they made quite a promising start to the match and might easily have scored in the first minute.

That was when Turner cut through dangerously in his best style and was floored just outside the penalty area. Taking the free kick himself, he drove the ball through the crowd of players and missed the post by inches, with Vearncombe well beaten.

Gradually, though, Harrington and Baker, took an almost complete grip on Turner and Brown, both of whom were repeatedly caught in possession.

One or two half-chances cropped up and Turner had two or three shots blocked by Cardiff who packed their penalty area tightly when any danger threatened.

However, Luton's forwards became less and less prominent as the game wore on, with Gregory well held by Malloy, Pounder, with admittedly not getting the ball in front of him often, not making much of Stiffall.

DEFENCE TOOK HONOURS

Most consistent forward was Adam who made some accurate crosses which could well have been the means of ending the Town's blank spell which has now lasted for 391 minutes.

So, it was the defence which took the honours, with Dunne and Jones in capable form, Morton strong in the tackle, but Pearce not quite so dominating as he has been, though he was resourceful in defence.

Although Owen was badly handicapped by his injury, he continued to do a captain's job in marshalling his forces and both

Brown and Morton did well when they took over new positions.

CARDIFF CITY: Vearncombe; Rutter, Stiffall; Harrington, Malloy, Baker; Nugent, McSeveney, Hitchens, Jenkins, Tucker.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Owen, Pearce; Pounder, Turner, Gregory, Brown, Adam.

Referee: W. Hickson, Wigan.
Attendance: 18,000.

Other Critics Said:

BATTERED BAYNHAM A HERO

Ron Baynham, battered but unbeaten, stole most of the thunder after the Town's fighting draw at Cardiff on Saturday.

The defence as a whole, and Baynham in particular, pleased the critics of the national newspapers, but they thought little of Luton's lack-lustre forward line.

Here are some quotes:

"Cardiff's attack lacked the technique to lure Luton's handicapped defence into false positions." Sunday Dispatch.

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"A magnificent display of goalkeeping by Ron Baynham robbed Cardiff of a much-needed point at Ninian Park. Luton's defence, generally, gave a really sound display." Sunday Express.

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"Luton ended this relegation battle with only nine effective men." Reynolds News.

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"Luton can thank Ron Baynham for their point." The People.

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"It was Baynham who came to Luton's rescue. For Luton a point away from home was highly satisfactory." News of the World.

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"Hero of Luton's valuable draw was goalkeeper Ron Baynham... Luton's stolid defence earned them a point." Sunday Pictorial.

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"Luton were rather lucky to share the spoils." South Wales Echo.