

STRONG BEDFORD TEAM HERE TOMORROW

TOWN DELAY CHOICE, BUT BAYNHAM PLAYS

By Chiltern

HECTIC two matches a week spell through which the Town are going, continues and tomorrow night they will have as their visitors in the final of the Bedfordshire Professional Cup, Bedford Town.

The Southern League club, managed by former Town assistant, Tim Kelly, are having a remarkably successful season, and their victory at Weymouth on Saturday puts them in with a real chance of finishing as runners-up to Kettering.

THEIR performance in winning this match was all the more laudable because, at the last minute, just before the team was about to leave, Tim had a message that Billy Cooke, the former Town full-back, had had an accident, as the result of which his ankle was in plaster.

With no twelfth man available, Bedford were in a real dilemma and the way out was found by playing Doug Gardiner, the ex-Luton captain who is now Bedford's trainer, at outside-right and making two positional switches.

Town Will Not Have Their Captain

UNFORTUNATELY, the Town, who are holders of this trophy, will be without Sid Owen, who is having treatment for a thigh muscle he pulled at Cardiff on Saturday.

Estimate of the length of his lay-off is a fortnight, but it would not be altogether surprising, especially if the grounds remain hard, that he will not recover before the end of the season.

Automatic deputy is Terry Kelly, son of the Bedford manager. He has had some groin trouble, and was doing only light training yesterday, but Manager Dally Duncan thinks that he will be all right.

Baynham Will Be In The Line-up

YESTERDAY, the Town manager had not made up his mind definitely about his line-up and had not decided definitely to bring Allan Brown down from Blackpool for this match.

His difficulty is that he also has to field a reserve team against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, so it looks as if Brown will have to play, but Roy Davies may come in at centre-forward, with Gregory switching to inside-left.

Ron Baynham was not training yesterday and his mouth which he injured in a collision at Cardiff was still very sore.

In fact, he is finding considerable difficulty in eating, but he told me yesterday that he will be all right for tomorrow's match.

Bedford Have Chosen Their Team

THAT is a matter of considerable relief to the manager, whose only other professional goalkeeper is Bernard Streten.

Bud Aherne is back in full training after his lengthy lay-off, but George McLeod, who pulled a muscle last Wednesday, is still having treatment, and it is extremely doubtful whether he will be fit enough to have consideration for tomorrow.

On the other hand, Bedford were able to announce a definite team yesterday, and will bring in Gordon Hepple, formerly of Norwich City, at right-back in Cooke's place.

Team: Pope; Hepple, Quinn; Hughes, Craig, Crichton; Murray, Yates, Bull, Stobbart, Staroscik.

A Special Train Is Being Run

A PLAYER who has attracted considerable attention from League clubs this season is Mickey Bull, a winger who has now been converted into a centre-forward, and he has had spells with Brentford and Swindon, and reached Bedford via Hastings.

Both Hughes and Staroscik were with Northampton, Quinn played for Millwall, and Pope, one of the best goalkeepers in the Southern League, joined Bedford from Newport County.

Bedford expect to have a considerable following, and apart from a special train which is being run, dozens of coaches have been booked for the trip.

Baynham Gave A Great Display

DUE in very large measure to a magnificent display of goal-keeping by Baynham, the Town hung on to a hard-won point at Cardiff and they did well to do so, particularly in view of the fact that for the last 27 minutes a limping Owen was figuring in the forward line.

From there, he continued to general his forces, but the enforced changes imposed an extra strain on the overworked defence, and it needed all Baynham's agility and pluck to keep out the eager Cardiff forwards.

Some Saves Were In Fantastic Class

SELDOM this season has their goal undergone such a bombardment, but Baynham was absolutely unbeatable, and some of his saves were in the fantastic class.

Twice he had to have attention for injuries received in collisions with oncoming forwards, and he was decidedly shaky at the end after receiving facial injuries in the 88th minute.

He more than deserved the ovation which the Welsh crowd gave him at the end.

Morton Took Over In The Middle

WHEN Owen had to move forward, Morton took over in the middle, and a very good job he made of it, although Owen's height was missed in dealing with high crosses, of which there were many.

However, Morton was equally as grim in the tackle as his skipper and the defence as a whole put up a most workmanlike performance.

Dunne mastered the inexperienced Tucker, who yet managed to be a danger with some most deceptive in-swinging centres, particularly from corners, of which there was a crop for Cardiff.

No Fault To Find With Defence

IN his own particular style, Jones was effective, too, after finding some early difficulty in coping with Nugent, perhaps the most dangerous of the home forwards.

Pearce was not so prominent as he has been in recent matches, partly because there seemed to be quite longish spells when the ball was nowhere near him, and partly because he was not so forthright as he has been.

But it would be difficult to fault the defence on this display, even though Baynham had to do more than his share of the work

FOR THE RECORDS

CARDIFF CITY 0
LUTON TOWN 0

CARDIFF CITY: Vearncombe; Rutter, Stiffell; 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.

and had the busiest afternoon that has come his way for a long time.

Forward Line Was Different Story

FORWARD it was a very different story, with the line not functioning smoothly and perhaps thrown out of gear by the relentless tackling of the Cardiff defenders.

From the way in which they started, I thought we were going to see an improved display from the forwards, and, indeed, there was very nearly a goal in the first minute when Turner was no more than inches wide from a free kick awarded when he was brought down heavily just outside the penalty area.

Grip Gained On Inside Forwards

A PITY that shot did not count, because not only would it have ended the Town's blank spell which has now lasted for 391 minutes, but it would have restored some of the confidence Turner has lost since his ankle injury.

Both he and Brown became very much in the grip of strong wing-halves in Harrington and Baker, who never hesitated in the tackle, and both inside-forwards were often caught in possession.

Brown, as not shown his form of his first few matches for the

club since the hard grounds came, and he is finding difficulty in getting the ball under control quickly enough to be really constructive.

More Thrust Needed In The Middle

HOWEVER, he did his full share in holding on to this point in the closing stages when he took over at right-half.

Not surprising this because he played at wing-half when he was with East Fife. There was not a lot of support for Gregory who, however, is not showing sufficient thrust to be an unqualified success in the middle and there is a need for more drive in this position.

Of the wingers, Adam was the better and, indeed, qualified for the tag of the best forward which, perhaps, did not mean an awful lot.

Reserves Gave Away Another Goal

IN their last five games Luton Town Reserves have conceded five "own goals" — not a record of which they can be particularly proud.

The glut of own goals continued on Saturday when Jim Pemberton "scored" for Ipswich and thus enabled the East Anglian side to share the points in a 3-3 draw.

Luton should have won comfortably enough, but Ipswich kept plugging away and stole a point in the end.

Legate opened the scoring and although McLuckie equalised and Snell gave the visitors a surprise lead it looked to be only a matter of time before Luton were in front again.

Reached Century For Season

SURE enough, Davies equalised, and Legate, who had quite a good game, put them in front before the interval.

The only goal of the second half came when Pemberton beat Streten a quarter of an hour from the end.

However, although this game never reached the heights it was notable for one thing — Legate's second goal was Luton's 100th of the season.