

# MERRICK STOPPED A TOWN AVALANCHE OF GOALS

## BIRMINGHAM LUCKY TO ESCAPE LIGHTLY

### Town Forwards Too Fast And Thrustful For Them

By Chiltern

WITH five points from the last six, the Town have made steady progress up the First Division table in recent weeks and their form in accounting for Birmingham City so easily was merely confirmation of what they showed at Maine-road, Manchester, the previous week.

Few expected Birmingham to be overcome so comfortably because, in the past, they have nearly always presented a problem to the Town with their hard, dour brand of football.

IN this match, they had scarcely anything to offer, apart from a brilliant display of goalkeeping by Merrick who, alone, stood between the Town and a runaway victory.

Even players in the star class like Smith were made to look ordinary. Their defence, usually so strong and solid, had no answer to the fast-moving football of the Town forwards whose improvement in the last two matches has been most striking and also most comforting.

Main thing, of course, is that Turner has regained his striking power after an unproductive spell and that is making all the difference.

### Birmingham Had Merrick To Thank

IN the end, Turner could be said to have won his duel with Merrick, but there was a time when it looked as if the England goalkeeper might finish up on top.

As Manager Daily Duncan said afterwards, "When Merrick, like Baynham, is in this sort of form, then getting the ball past him is the hardest job in the world."

Birmingham had Merrick to thank for remaining on level terms for as long as 39 minutes. Time and again, he produced glorious saves, but there was nothing he could do about Turner's first goal.

### Turner's Coolly Taken Goal

EVADING a couple of opponents inside the penalty area, Turner coolly curved out for himself a perfect shooting

position and he made sure that Merrick had no chance on this occasion.

A lead of one goal was a poor reward for the way in which the Town had played and it was only during a spell when Baynham was feeling the immediate effects of colliding with a goalpost which caused him to bruise his back that Birmingham gave even a hint that they might score.

### Baynham Training Yesterday

ONCE or twice, Baynham had difficulty in getting down to low shots, but there was not a great deal of a serious nature for him to contend with and, wisely, his defensive colleagues did not bring him into action unnecessarily by passing back to him, as they are wont to do in normal circumstances.

The greasy state of the ground which caused him to slip was the cause of Baynham's mishap, but he was training normally yesterday.

Birmingham's hopes of making a second half rally evaporated in the opening minutes after the interval when the Town struck two quick goals.

### Two Mistakes — Two More Goals

DEFENSIVE errors were directly responsible for both and when Watts miskicked in the 46th minute, Turner was left with the sort of chance he rarely misses and he simply swept the ball past Merrick.

Five minutes later, the goalkeeper made his only serious mistake of the match when he

## PICTORIAL WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

went up to a free kick by McNally, half punched the ball which ran on to McLeod.

The outside-left, as in the previous home match when he was left with a similar chance, showed great presence of mind and he coolly drove the ball accurately through an open space.

### Might Have Doubled Their Score

THAT proved to be the end of the scoring, though the Town continued to be dangerous.

Two or three reasonable chances were missed and Merrick brought off more excellent saves to keep the score sheet looking fairly respectable so far as they were concerned.

However, had the Town's output of goals been doubled, they would not have been flattered and they have never had it so easy against this opposition.

Almost Birmingham's only scoring chance fell to Orritt in lucky circumstances when he received a deflected pass, but he made an awful hash of his shot.

### Lucky To Escape Penalty Appeals

TWICE Birmingham were lucky to escape penalty appeals when Turner was brought down and there was one distinctly clear case during the second half when his legs were whipped from under him from behind.

What must have struck every

body was the amount of shooting that came from the Town, with Turner contributing most of it and the forwards are now moving as an assured, confident formation which should ensure that they obtain goals regularly.

If Turner was the main spearhead, a tremendous amount of very useful work was done by Cummings, who overcame the difficulty presented by the greasy conditions extremely well.

### Brown Is Taking Much Of The Weight

IN parting with the ball, he showed a nice sense of timing and his through passes began many an attack.

Brown, in the middle, is taking a deal of the weight and is proving most difficult to move off the ball. His distribution is good; he is always fighting for the ball and, although he missed a couple of chances, his switch to centre-forward has had much to do with the Town's revival.

On this occasion, too, there was a marked improvement on the wings, with Adam finishing more accurately than he sometimes does.

### Town Half-backs Took A Grip

BOTH he and McLeod, who gave Farmer an uncomfortable time, were fast and direct, and the line never made the mistake of allowing themselves to be banged down in the mud.

On the other hand, Birmingham displayed little smoothness in their attack. There was a lack of constructive ability at inside-forward which did not help them to throw off the grip that Morton and Pearce had in midfield.

Once again, Morton was given the task of putting a player out of the game and, on this occasion, Neal was the man he had to shadow.

### Outstanding Display By Pearce

SO well did he do it that this converted wing-half was little in the picture, while Pearce was perhaps the outstanding player that this game produced.

Although he was playing his fourth game in eight days, he

### FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN ..... 3

Turner (2), McLeod

BIRMINGHAM CITY... 0

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Jones; Morton, Owen, Pearce; Adam, Turner, Brown, Cummings, McLeod.

BIRMINGHAM CITY: Merrick; Farmer, Green; Larkin, Smith, Watts; Astall, Orritt, Brown, Neal, Murphy.

Referee: K. Dagnall, Bolton.

Attendance: 17,292.

showed an abundance of energy, continually bringing the ball through and often popping up inside the penalty area to accept a return pass.

In his present form there are few better wing-halves in the country and it is a bit unfortunate for him that Duncan Edwards has such a firm grip on the left-half position in the England team.

### Owen's Unworried Afternoon

RESTORATION of Morton to his old position has helped considerably in the Town's improvement and he is playing with all his old strength and fire.

It is an odd-on bet that Owen did not expect such a comfortable afternoon against his former club and he buttoned up the middle completely, with the result that even the wanderings of Eddie Brown could not make him a danger against the Town skipper.

This middle line is immensely strong and this is the foundation of any team.

Groves took Morton's place in last night's match with the Managers' XI because Morton is flying to Amsterdam with the Football Combination team this morning.

## CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

**DIVISION I**  
Birmingham C v Sunderland  
Barnley v Leicester C  
Chelsea v Luton T  
Manchester C v Bolton W  
Newcastle Utd v Blackpool  
Nottingham Forest v Arsenal  
Portsmouth v Wolves  
Preston N.E. v Manchester Utd  
Sheff Wed v Leeds Utd  
Tottenham H v Everton  
West Brom v Aston Villa

**DIVISION II**  
Bristol C v Blackburn R  
Cardiff C v Ipswich T  
Charlton Ath v Derby County  
Doncaster R v Swansea T  
Grimsby T v West Ham  
Huddersfield T v Barnsley  
Leyton Orient v Bristol R  
Liverpool v Notts County  
Middlesbrough v Lincoln C  
Rotherham Utd v Fulham  
Sheff C v Sheffield Utd

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

**DIVISION III (NORTH)**  
Accrington S v Workington  
Barrow v Darlington  
Bradford v Rochdale  
Bury v Mansfield T  
Cardiff Utd v Crewe Alex  
Chester v Bradford C  
Chesham Utd v Hull C  
Huddersfield Utd v Halifax T  
Oxford Ath v Gateshead  
Southport v Wrexham  
Tranmere R v Stockport County  
York C v Scunthorpe Utd

### SCOTTISH LEAGUE

#### DIVISION I

Aberdeen v Queen's Park  
Clyde v Falkirk  
East Fife v Celtic  
Hibernian v Partick T  
Motherwell v Raith R  
Queen of South v Hearts  
Rangers v Kilmarnock  
St. Mirren v Airdrieonians  
Third Lanark v Dundee

#### DIVISION II

Albion Rovers v Alloa  
Arbroath v St. Johnstone  
Ayr Utd v Brechin C  
Berwick R v Dunfermline  
Cowdenbeath v Stirling A  
Dundee Utd v Forfar Ath  
East Stirling v Dumfries  
Motherhouse v Stranraer  
Stenhousemuir v Hamilton

### McNally Did A Sound Job

THAT Dunn was not minded is a tribute to the way in which McNally did his job.

This season he is a much more mature player and the Town need have no qualms about him going into the team in either full-back position.

Yesterday, Dunn had resumed training along with Kelly, who has had a bruised thigh muscle, and may come into consideration for Saturday's visit to Chelsea.

From Jones there was a highly competent display and full trouble for him from that dangerous winger, Astall, for whom there was little in the way of support.

### Some Improvement In The Gate

FEW shots of a dangerous nature reached Baynham and the defence as a whole deserved to keep another clean sheet and to preserve their defensive record as the best in the First Division.

The attendance of 17,292 was an improvement on the previous one, but I understand that Birmingham brought quite a considerable following.

However, what had to be taken into consideration was that there was a considerable Cap-fee contribution at Bedford which probably took some of the Town followers from that end of the county, and they drew over 9,000.

### Winner Came Two Minutes From Time

A GOAL two minutes from the end enabled the Town Reserves to get back on the winning path when they visited Coventry.

Looney gained it from close range and it was a success the Town deserved because what football the match produced came from them.

Coventry relied on hard, first-time tactics, which tended to be over-robust, and Groves, who was the best forward, had something of a rough time.

Cullen, a regular scorer since



BOB MORTON who plays for the Combination XI in Amsterdam tomorrow

he moved inside, put Luton ahead after 30 minutes, a lead that lasted just 30 seconds before Patrick equalised.

### Aherne Was In His Best Form

GROVES had a hand in both the goals and made many openings.

Outstanding in defence was the experienced Aherne, who was very hard and sound in the tackle, and Hawkes made him an effective partner.

McGuffie caught the eye with much accurate distribution. Shanks was always a worker, but Underwood was not quite strong enough at centre-half, where he was standing in for Kelly.

It was a good performance and some measure of compensation for the disappointing home defeat of the previous week.

### £250 PAID IN PRIZE MONEY

Prize money to the value of £250—a record—was paid out at the annual dinner of the Luton and District North Road Homing Society on Saturday.

Nearly 70 members and friends were present and principal prize-winners were: W. Dawoodie, W. Marshall, D. H. R. Aldridge, B. King, R. Bull, S. Huckle, B. Campling, C. Heighon, N. Higgins, F. Clements, Messrs. Payne and Hawes, and J. Gauntlett.

They asked for perfect starting...  
I told 'em OLDHAM

They asked for longer battery life...  
I told 'em OLDHAM

They asked for the BEST...  
I told 'em OLDHAM

Make yours an OLDHAM

THE BATTERY WITH POWER TO SPARE  
OLDHAM & SON LTD GENTON MANCHESTER

## DIVIDEND OF £7-18-0 AT LUTON ON SATURDAY

SUCCESS of non-fancied dogs in the second race caused a "Tote" dividend of £7 18s. at Luton Stadium on Saturday.

Rose Bud (5-1) won, with Lovely Teresa (8-1) second.

I (410yds)—1, KING SOL (5); 2, Joyful (1); 3, Old Fella (3); 4, Hymns (2); 5, Miss Patience (6); 6, Day Out (4). 6, 3, 6, 1, 1. 24.58. Off 6.48.

Betting: Evens Old Fella; 7-2 Hymns; 4-1 KING SOL, Joyful; 8-1 others.

Forecast: £3 2s.

II (470yds)—1, ROSE BUD (3); 2, Lovely Teresa (2); 3, Poppy (6); 4, Fly Miss (1); 5, Hi Gang (5); 6, Cuba (4). 24. 4, 2, 3, 1. 28.74. Off 7.07.

Betting: 6-4 Hi Gang; 5-2 Poppy; 5-1 ROSE BUD, Cuba; 8-1 others.

Forecast: £7 18s.

III (410yds)—1, VERY USEFUL (1); 2, Bally Fairy (5); 3, Old Coat (6); 4, Tilly (2); 5, Gaynor (3); 6, Ryans Rose (4) (reserve). 3, 2, 2, 2. 25.08. Non-runner: Emma (4). Off 7.27.

Betting: 6-4 Gaynor; 3-1 VERY USEFUL; 4-1 Tilly; 6-1 Bally Fairy, Ryans Rose; 7-1 Old Coat. Forecast: £3 15s.

IV (410yds)—1, GAMBLER (5); 2, Eccles (4); 3, Lumpy (6); 4, Rock 'n' Roll (2); 5, Little Noddy (1); 6, Rabbit (3) (reserve). Neck, 10, 3, 4, distance. 24.58. Non-runner: Light and Light (3). Off 7.48.

Betting: 2-1 Eccles; 5-2 GAMBLER; 3-1 Rock 'n' Roll; 4-1 Lumpy; 8-1 Little Noddy; 10-1 Rabbit. Forecast: £1 3s. 6d.

V (470yds)—1, LUCY (1) (reserve); 2, Hurry Up (4); 3, Cokey Boy (2); 4, Red Rascal (3); 5, Chub (6); 6, Houghton Boy (5). 4, 3, 6, 2, 3. 27.52. Non-runner: Kingsfare (1). Off 8.09.

Betting: 5-4 Hurry Up; 2-1 LUCY; 9-2 Red Rascal; 6-1 Cokey Boy; 7-1 Chub; 10-1 Houghton Boy. Forecast: 15s. 6d.

VI (410yds)—1, WHAT'S WHAT (6); 2, Return Fare (1); 3, Laxton Superb (3); 4, Simon (5); 5, Tom-Pom (2). 5, 3, 2, 4. 24.08. Non-runner: Westbourne (4). Off 8.10.

Betting: 4-5 WHAT'S WHAT; 9-4 Simon; 7-1 Tom-Pom; 8-1 others. Forecast: £2 2s. 3d.

VII (470yds)—1, BELAVISTA (2); 2, Persil (4); 3, Our Bob (6); 4, Ballerino (3); 5, Smoky Joe (1); 6, Speedy Ash (5). 3, 8, 2, 4, 3. 28.07. Off 8.58.

Betting: 5-4 Persil; 2-1 BELAVISTA; 4-1 Ballerino; 6-1 Smoky Joe; 10-1 Our Bob; 10-7 Speedy Ash.

Forecast: 17s. 6d.

VIII (410yds)—1, DOUBLE R (6); 2, Dead Loss (4); 3, The Maid (1); 4, Chick (2); 5, Parlez-Vous (3) (reserve); 6, Whispering Sands (5). 4, head, 3, 2, 1. 25.13. Non-runner: Stroller (3). Off 9.10.

Betting: 2-1 The Maid; 9-4 DOUBLE R; 7-2 Dead Loss, Whispering Sands; 10-1 others. Forecast: £1 8s. 9d.

### BUNNIES AND SELECTIONS FOR LUTON STADIUM TONIGHT

7.30 (410 yds).—433 Just Jake; 566 Judy's Pet; 4 Litter B; 5 Pukka Gen; 224 Bob Roy; 5 Sunny.

7.48 (470 yds).—352 Ash Shaggy; 242 Bendigo; 465 Drummer Boy; 324 Picture Lady; 213 Tree Top; 342 Valley Prince; reserve 542 Westfield Boy.

8.05 (410 yds).—Arden Girl (Oct 17, to 3, 24.54, Oct 29, to 6, 24.82); 426 Bona; Brown; 456 Gina; 216 Mr Tap-Toes; No Reely (Oct 1, to 1, 24.95, Oct 29, to 3, 25.08); 434 Trump.

8.24 (470 yds).—221 Blue Jet; 134 Easy Custom; 541 Gold Star; 134 Neta; 151 Peter Pan; 132 The Puma.

8.44 (410 yds).—Derek (Oct 3, to 3, 24.37, Oct 29, to 6, 24.49); 543 Grapefruit; Jackie's Girl (Oct 17, to 3, 24.50, Oct 19, to 6, 24.56); 315 Rumpole; 315 Rumpole.

9.04 (470 yds).—163 Alice; 325 Betty; 455 Ian; 613 Old Mick; 156 Piuso; 634 Shiffle; reserve 224 Puzzle.

9.40 (410 yds).—542 Irene; 46 Matchless (Oct 22, to 2, 24.64); 653 New Mexico; 553 Old Timer; 121 Red Light; 35 Wenscott; reserve 36 Frances (Oct 29, to 5, 24.74).

SELECTIONS  
7.30—Just Jake (Sammy, Judy's Pet).  
7.48—Tree Top (Bendigo, Ash Shaggy).  
8.05—Mr Tap-Toes (Trump, Gina).  
8.24—Blue Jet (The Nurse, Neta).  
8.44—Rumpole (Redshank, Derek).  
9.04—Who Cares (Crepello, Puma).  
9.22—Alice (Shiffle, Ian).  
9.40—Red Light (Old Timer, New Mexico).