

Top Scorer In Division 1



GORDON TURNER, who scored his second hat-trick of the season, against Nottingham Forest on Saturday. With 17 League goals to his credit, Gordon is the leading scorer in the First Division.

DEADLY TURNER WAS THE MAJOR FACTOR Brilliant Hat-Trick Put Town On Victory Path

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 3, NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1

DEADLY finishing by Turner, who recorded his second hat trick in three weeks and swept to the head of the First Division scorers by boosting his total to 17, was the major factor in this deserved Town victory.

A somewhat shaky Forest defence could not find the answer to this marksman, who took his chances brilliantly and the manner in which he obtained his second goal will be talked about by Town fans for a long time.

If the Town approached this match very wary of untoward happenings in the early stages, no-one could have blamed them because they had unhappy memories of early goals against them in the last two matches, both of which ended in defeat.

As a confidence restorer, they badly needed a filip in the opening minutes and they received it after seven minutes when TURNER crashed in a pass from Adam that Pearce helped into a more tenable position.

TURNER'S second goal came after exactly half an hour when an Adam cross reached him as he was facing his own goal. Quickly he pivoted to pull the ball with his left foot well out of the reach of the astonished Thompson.

With 57 minutes gone, the terraces were ringing with the cheers of appreciation for his hat-trick when he simply blasted into the net first-time a low cross from Adam.

Some of the enthusiasm was dimmed when seven minutes later, GRAY who had wandered into the middle, just beat Jones to a through pass and lobbed the ball over the head of the oncoming Baynham.

GRIP WAS NOT RELAXED

However, the Town showed no sign of relaxing their grip and the defence always had most of the answers to the

Forest forwards whose inside trio was little in the picture throughout the whole 90 minutes.

For this fact, Morton, Owen, and Pearce, deserve high praise and Morton followed faithfully his instructions to put out of the game Barrett, who was regarded as the chief danger man.

Not only did he accomplish that, but his work in attack enabled the Town right wing to be the most dangerous on the field and it would have been even more effective had Adam's finishing been consistent.

In each of the three goals he had a hand, but there were other times when the way in which he rounded off good approach work was most inaccurate.

However, by and large, he did much that was useful and often came back to collect the ball and to help harass Imlach, who was mostly well held by Dunne.

OWEN HELD WILSON

Although he seemed just a little uneasy at the start, perhaps because recent set-backs were in the forefront of his mind, Owen settled down to hold Wilson completely and the inexperienced Quigley was no match for Pearce.

One flaw in the defensive system was that Jones tended to give Gray, the Forest's most effective forward, too much room and the winger got the ball across more often than he ought.

However, it all added up to a quiet enough afternoon for Baynham whose chief anxiety came from the shooting of Burkitt whose liking for attack meant that Turner had more room than is usually the case and he used it brilliantly.

Despite their success, this attack has played better than this and complete smoothness was not achieved. Yet, there was some clever football from Cummins, who might have made more use of the long through pass.

Brown tried hard, distributed the ball neatly, but the material to enable him to be in the dashing, thrustful centre-forward role did not come and there were few shots from him.

For McLeod, there was not the best of service, but he tended to delay in crossing the ball and it was not until the last 20 minutes that he really left any mark on this game.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Owen, Pearce; Adam, Turner, Brown, Cummins, McLeod.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Thomson; Whare, Thomas; Morley, McKinlay, Burkitt; Gray, Quigley, Wilson, Barrett, Imlach.

Referee: D. H. Howell, Birmingham. Attendance 18,344.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton dominated the mid-field throughout because they had more skill and ideas, but their mastery was given effect by the individual brilliance of Turner, who was intelligent enough to sense an opening and confident enough to take it." — "The Observer."

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"A further reminder to the England selectors came from Gordon Turner in this game. His brilliant hat-trick boosted his goals total for the season to 17 and he alone had any real idea of shooting." — "Sunday Express."

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"It is doubtful whether there is a better opportunist than Turner in League football at the moment." — "News of the World."

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"Luton's attack was a lot brighter but, Turner apart, there was still not a lot of punch there." — "Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

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"Luton's wing-halves prompted the attacks through their fast wingers, whose speed harassed Forest's defence." — "Sunday Pictorial."

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"Luton won much more comfortably than the score suggests. Wing-halves Bob Morton and Reg. Pearce snuffed out the Forest inside-forwards." — "The People."

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"That most uncapped goal-getter Gordon Turner won this game for Luton with two fine first-half goals and a third in the second." — "Sunday Graphic."

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"Luton were the masters . . . Turner sparkled for the whole 90 minutes." — "Reynolds News."