

NEW-FOUND PUNCH IN TOWN'S ATTACK

Albion's Unbeaten Away Record Was Shattered

BY CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 5, WEST BROMWICH ALBION 1

MEMORIES of recent disappointments were wiped away at one fell swoop by this brilliant Town display which led to the smashing, in no uncertain style, of the Albion's proud, unbeaten, away record.

Current form, and even past history, were all against the Town gaining such a triumph, but they earned it by the quality of their football and the way in which their forwards used their new-found punch.

In an endeavour to gain more directness, Jones and Cummins were omitted and the changes, which brought in Hawkes for his League debut, and Groves, worked admirably.

Right from the full-backs, the ball was kept moving quickly, forward all the time, and it was this determination to get on with the job that led to the undoing of the Albion, who did not compare with the Town in any department.

However, the foundation of this great win was laid in the strength of the Town's half-back line where Morton, Owen and Pearce simply blotted out the all-International inside trio of Robson, Allen and Kevan.

Pearce is rapidly gaining the reputation of being the best uncapped wing-half in the country and when he is playing in this form, he certainly earns the tag.

Absolutely indefatigable, he covered a tremendous amount of ground in defence and attack and two of his passes paved the way to goals.

The same description with regard to International honours has been applied to Morton many times in the past, and he still qualifies to share that distinction with Pearce because he had a fine match.

With Owen having the middle firmly blocked up, there were few chances for Allen, despite all his wanderings, and apart from when the only goal came against them, the defence had a completely watertight look.

SUCCESS OF HAWKES

The cool, efficient way in which Hawkes settled down, to a task that must have been something of an ordeal to him, was an eye-opener and he played like an old hand against the experienced Griffin.

Wasting no time in clearing his lines and tackling hard, Hawkes looked as if he has come to stay in League football.

His partner Dunne kept Horobin very quiet and there was a good deal more effective cover for the very safe Baynham than there has been on some recent occasions.

Satisfying though the return to their best form of the defence was, the great thing about this match was that the

forwards found their shooting boots to the tune of five goals, their best effort of the season.

With a heaven-sent chance to prove his quality, Turner took it to demonstrate clearly that he is more in the international class than either of his two chief rivals for the England inside-right position, Robson and Kevan.

Twice he had the ball in the back of the net to bring his goals total to 19, easily the best in the First Division.

If Groves can keep pushing the ball forward as he did in this match once he had settled down, both Brown, who led the line with both fire and determination, and Turner will be among the goals regularly.

GROVES PLAYED HIS PART

Groves played quite a considerable part in this victory by his work in midfield and can very easily make the inside-left berth his own.

Showing a fine burst of speed in the mud, Brown kept the West Brom. defence on tenterhooks and always he was seeking to distribute the ball to the best advantage.

Another who shone in this best forward display for weeks was Adam, who found finishing power to ally with his excellent approach work and this was his best match for a long time.

Not so much came from McLeod, who found Howe a big stumbling block, but he showed fighting spirit and courage and it was that that led to the first goal.

McLeod went hard into a tackle on Howe, gained possession of the ball and with Sanders only half saving, ADAM came in quickly to sweep it into the net to give the Town the lead after 25 minutes.

Four minutes later, ROBSON equalised when he raced through a gaping hole in the Town defence but they were level only three minutes before BROWN brilliantly headed through a centre by Adam.

This was followed three minutes later by a terrific close-range drive from TURNER from Groves's pass and on the stroke of half-time, KENNEDY put the ball wide of his astonished goal keeper in an attempt to prevent Brown running on to a pass by Pearce.

Although they had quite a share of the second-half play at times, West Brom. were weak at close quarters and the only goal came to TURNER after 64 minutes when Groves worked the ball well and Brown provided a lovely pass.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; Morton, Owen, Pearce; Adam, Turner, Brown, Groves, McLeod.

WEST BROMWICH ALB.: Sanders; Howe, Williams; Setters, Kennedy, Barlow; Griffin, Robson, Allen, Kevan, Horobin. Referee: N. C. Taylor, Westbury. Attendance: 15,340.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"The way Turner takes his openings has made him leading goal-scorer in the First Division. He always looked more dangerous than Kevan or Robson."—"The Observer."

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"Turner again showed himself worthy of a place in the England forward line."—"Sunday Times."

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"This was Luton's finest hour. Every single Luton man-jack played his heart out."—"The People."

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"If England must persist in playing a spearhead inside-forward, Turner looks far and away a better proposition than either of the Albion boys."—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"Luton Town really slammed tough and efficient West Bromwich Albion in the local mud."—"News of the World."

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"Yes, it was a great day for The Hatters."—"Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

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"Albion's proud away record was trampled into the mud by a splendid forthright display by Luton at Kenilworth-road — so often the graveyard for the ambitious."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"On this form Luton could have beaten any team in the country."—"Reynolds News."

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"Albion's wings were clipped by Hawkes and Dunne, and the Luton halves, especially Pearce, were masters."—"Sunday Graphic."

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"Unpredictable Luton! They can be so brilliant, and so bad. This was one of their great days. Luton kept the initiative with the quick, accurate, low pass."—"Sunday Express."