

GORDON TURNER WORTH A CAP

By JOHN FAIRGRIEVE

57/58

Luton Town 5 West Bromwich Albion 1

RATINGS: Skill—Luton 9, Albion 6. Entertainment 9. Sports-
manship 8. Control 8.

LUTON have said it before this season, and they will probably say it many times again: "Why do England's selectors ignore Gordon Turner?" And this was a game that added a razor-sharp edge to the question.

Comparisons may be odious, but I couldn't help comparing Turner with Albion and England men Derek Kevan and Bobby Robson. Result: I quote Luton chairman Percy Mitchell—a man not given to expressing an opinion that isn't carefully weighed up:

"Gordon stood out," he said, head, shoulders and waist above either Kevan and Robson." I agree with Mr. Mitchell one hundred per cent.

I've heard critics of Turner say he is a goal-scorer and nothing else. **THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT LUTON ON SATURDAY.**

They should have seen him link up with ball-playing Allan Brown, in a menacing double-act—fed by stabbing passes from Groves, and a mighty half-back-line—that had Albion running in all directions except the right one.

Old-fashioned

One of my objectives was to see whether Albion could keep it up in the mud. You will note the score-line, indicating their first away defeat of the season but that doesn't tell the full story.

It wasn't the mud that beat West Bromwich Albion, but a side playing better and more effective football. **AND I'M NOT OVER-SIMPLIFYING IT.**

Individually, and as a team, Luton looked like the championship challengers. Even that Setters-Kennedy-Barlow half-back-line—often named as the country's best—were never the force of the Luton three.

You might call Luton old-fashioned. They worked the ball upfields progressively, but no man made a habit of holding the ball too long. The last-but-one move in attack usually came

from the wings—the sensible policy in muddy going.

It was crisp, confident football; the sort of football that takes in plenty of short-passing, and which must be played by genuine Soccer craftsmen to get results.

LUTON HAD THESE CRAFTSMEN, AND THEIR PLAY WAS A JOY TO SEE.

Ronnie Allen, the man who has carefully tailored England caps for Robson and Kevan, was allowed no freedom in midfield—Syd Owen and Reg Pierce saw to that.

I give top marks to only two Albion players—Don Howe and Maurice Setters.

SCORERS. — LUTON: Adam, Brown, Turner (2), Kennedy (O.G.); **ALBION:** Robson.

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

ALBION: Sanders; Howe, Williams; Setters, Kennedy, Barlow; Griffin, Robson, Allen, Kevan, Horobin.

REFEREE: N. C. Taylor (Westbury)
LINESMEN: A. L. Mason (South Croydon)
C. B. Broome (Southgate, London).

GATES ARE UP

SATURDAY'S Football League attendances were 55,839 up on the corresponding day last season, with an increase in every Division. Goals were down by 41.

GATES			
	1957	1956	Balance
DIV. I	277,462	260,373	+17,087
DIV. II	169,746	159,252	+10,494
DIV. III S.	101,794	84,281	+17,513
DIV. III N.	81,898	71,153	+10,745
	630,900	575,061	+55,839
GOALS			
	1957	1956	Balance
DIV. I	39	39	0
DIV. II	30	48	-18
DIV. III S.	36	51	-15
DIV. III N.	41	49	-8
	146	187	-41