

TEAM SPIRIT, PLUS FOOTBALL, DID IT Town's Brilliant Victory Over Battling Bolton

By Chiltern

BOLTON WANDERERS 1, LUTON TOWN 2

TTEAM spirit, fighting spirit and no little football ability. Any team that has those attributes cannot go all that far wrong and these were the ingredients the Town used in good measure at Burnden Park on Saturday.

In recording their third consecutive win over this opposition, though their first on the Lancashire club's ground in the First Division, the Town had to fight every inch of the way against strong, fast opposition and, in the end, most people were satisfied that they had done enough to earn their success.

What it amounted to, in general terms, was football against "biff-ball" because, as had been expected, Bolton pinned their faith on banging long passes into the middle from the wings and down the middle to give the battling Lofthouse the chance to use that deadly head of his.

It followed that the main strain in defence had to be taken by Baynham and Owen who, between them, defeated all the battering-ram tactics that Lofthouse could produce.

Never could they afford to relax when the ball was in the air in the penalty area and it was noticeable that, time and again, Baynham came racing up to interpose in a duel between his captain and the centre-forward.

In winning the battle with Lofthouse, this pair went a very long way towards gaining the points for their side, but both had a gruelling time.

Never was Baynham allowed to collect a high cross unchallenged, and that he hung-on to the ball so many times in the face of heavy charges was of great credit to him.

LOOKED IN ENGLAND CLASS

In fact, he did his future in the International field a great deal of good because he looked far more in this class than the present England goalkeeper, Hopkinson.

Admittedly, Baynham had more opportunities of demonstrating his skill than did the Bolton man, but he looked altogether more sure of himself.

On the only occasion on which he made a slip, Bolton took the lead with their first shot at goal two minutes after the start.

After Lofthouse had picked up a poor clearance by Dunne, he switched a square pass to HENNIN, who ran on to it, made some ground and then cracked in a rising drive from about 25 yards.

Baynham was a little way out of his goal and he appeared to misjudge the flight of the ball, though it may have been that he found difficulty in taking off because of the greasy surface. However, the ball eluded his clutching hands to land in the roof of the net.

In the recent past, that sort of a shock start has proved fatal to the Town and has produced disconcerting results, and, in the minutes that followed, there was little to suggest that it would be any different on this occasion.

SETTLED DOWN

However, gradually, the Town began to settle down and after 11 minutes a pass by Brown began the movement that led to the equaliser. It went to Adam, who slipped it through to Turner who had gone racing down the wing.

The inside-right turned goalwards and squared it accurately to GROVES who calmly side-footed it into the net.

Not usually regarded as a prolific scorer, the inside-left had cruel luck later when he beat Hopkinson completely with a hooked shot from outside the penalty area and it struck the underside of the bar to rebound to a grateful goalkeeper.

By sheer strength, Bolton gained the upper hand in the latter stage before the interval and the Town defence had to take a heavy strain.

For a time, the Town forwards could not sustain any pressure, and it was something of a relief when the interval arrived.

A timely goal by TURNER five minutes after the interval improved the Town's position immensely, and he belted the ball through after Hopkinson had pushed out a strong cross-shot from Morton, who had gone striding through the defence from Adam's pass.

TURNER OUT OF LUCK

With the Town on top, Turner was unlucky not to score two more, one with a shot that had "goal" written all over it, but

which cannoned into a defender and another with a power drive to which Hopkinson, at full-length, just got a hand and there was no-one near enough to take advantage of the rebound.

There were spells after this when Bolton pressed terrifically hard, and it was action stations for the whole defence, with the inside-forwards and even the wingers coming back to help.

Baynham's reach was a tremendous help in dealing with the numerous corners that came, and the Town's attacks were limited to breakaway. However, the ferocity of the home pressure lessened until they made their final effort in the closing stages.

Only a minute of normal time remained when Owen received a smack under an eye in a heading tussle with Lofthouse and was dazed.

Memories of that dramatic finish at Maine-road, Manchester, when the Town lost a two goals lead after a similar mishap flooded back, naturally, but the Town survived, with Baynham making an incredible save on the goal-line in the last second.

TOWN WERE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE

Although Bolton had the balance of play territorially, the better and more constructive football throughout came from the Town whose forwards moved very sweetly at times, with a good deal of midfield work and foraging being accomplished by Groves.

On his last two showings, Groves is making a very good job of the inside-left position and has adapted his style to the needs of the side splendidly.

There was hard work from Turner, too, and he showed in the second half, by the power of his shooting, why he is out ahead of the First Division scorers.

For Brown, there was close marking from the burly Higgins, but he held the line together well and, if there were occasions when he seemed to hold the ball too long, this was almost always necessary because his forward colleagues had been back doing a defensive stint.

Adam was the more lively and more effective of the wingers because McLeod took up bad position through faulty anticipation at times but, even so, he was a 100 per cent fighter and was willing to chase everything.

HIGH PRAISE FOR OWEN

No praise can be too high for Owen, not only for the barrier he put down the middle, but for the way in which he marshalled and generalised the rest of the defence.

Full marks, too, for Morton and Pearce, for strong resolute work, with Morton, on this occasion looking the more effective because there were times when Pearce ran with the ball instead of "sending" it. However, this was the only fault that could be found with the left-half.

For Hawkes, his sudden emergence as a regular First Division player must almost be like a fairy story, and again he showed forcibly that this big step has not been too much for him.

He was fully competent and efficient, never allowed himself to be rattled and always concentrated on getting the ball well out of the danger area. On the other hand, Dunne was more troubled, especially in the first half when several of his short clearances were intercepted and caused considerable trouble.

However, it was a great triumph for eleven fighters who had the edge on Bolton because they also had constructive ability to offer in greater measure.

BOLTON WANDERERS: Hopkinson; Hartle, Banks; Hennin, Higgins, Edwards (G); Birch, Stevens, Lofthouse, Parry, Holden.

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

Referee: M. McCoy, Doncaster.

Attendance: 16,754.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton have a slick side—good enough, yes, to win the Cup."
—"The People."

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"Baynham established his claim to fame with a sparkling display in which he kept out the goal-hungry Bolton forwards."
—"News of the World."

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"Baynham gave a stout performance which earned the admiration of the crowd. He showed excellent anticipation and daring."
—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"Bolton . . . failed to show the slickness of the Luton line, who made progress by the shortest route and made the most of two openings."
—"Sunday Express."

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"Billy Moir, Stockport manager, looked justifiably worried after seeing Luton, his team's opponents in the Cup. He commented, 'They are a very useful side.'
—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"Bolton lacked the constructive play at wing-half with which Morton and Pearce made Luton's raids look so smooth."
—"Reynolds News."

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"On this form Luton will menace the best, and could prove an ideal Cup team. Their teamwork is tops."
—"Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."