

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

DASHING TOWN WIPED THE SLATE CLEAN

Brown's Three Goals In Thrashing Of Arsenal

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 4, ARSENAL 0

IN thrilling style at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, the Town wiped the slate clean and, in the opinion of most of their supporters, gained adequate revenge for that glorious Cup failure in 1952 when they were virtually reduced to nine men because of injury.

This was the Town's first home win over the Gunners and they laid the foundation of it with a brilliant first half display that produced pulsating football for the season's biggest crowd, 27,291.

As was the Town's previous victory over this opposition, at Highbury, this will be remembered at Allan Brown's match because the centre-forward, apart from leading the attack in brilliant style, registered his first hat-trick for the club.

That the first goal took as long as 23 minutes in which to arrive was really quite amazing because both Morton and Herd had struck the woodwork and there had been several narrow escapes before BROWN did the trick.

McLeod and John Groves, between them, created the opening and Brown did the rest with a low shot. The left-wing pair were also closely concerned with the second goal eight minutes later, because Kelsey pushed Groves's header from McLeod's corner on to the bar and BROWN hit the rebound high into the net.

For long periods during the first-half, the Arsenal defence was at action stations with Kelsey constantly in action and the Town's half-time lead could have been more decisive had things really gone right for them in front of goal.

Before the interval, the Arsenal defence had looked distinctly porous and very vulnerable to the through pass, but there was some tightening up afterwards and still more, curiously enough,

when Charlton moved to outside-right because of a slight groin injury.

Charlton had been given a real chasing by McLeod and the rugged Holton, taking over, achieved more success.

There were spells in the second-half when Arsenal, fighting desperately, looked as if they might secure the goal that would give them a chance to save the day and, for a time, they tried all-out attack, with defenders coming up to help the forwards.

However, when a shooting opportunity was created, they found Baynham in brilliant form and towards the end, the Town dropped right back into their first-half stride.

With seven minutes to go, JOHN GROVES slipped the ball out to Brown on the right, ran into position for the return pass, and beat Kelsey with a right foot shot.

More pressure followed before BROWN obtained his third goal in the last minute following work by Adam and Turner.

TOWN'S DETERMINED FOOTBALL

Terrific fighting spirit, allied to fine football ability and great determination enabled the Town to be very much top dogs in this encounter which had many of the ingredients of a Cup-tie.

If the match was a triumph for Brown, he will be the first to pay tribute to the support he received from his colleagues and while this sort of service is coming his way, he will continue to be one of the most dangerous leaders in the land.

No-one should overlook the considerable part played by John Groves in keeping the ball on the move with wonderfully accurate passes and he is playing more strongly and more confidently than ever before.

In view of the nearness of the Cup-tie, it was good to see McLeod recover his best form and, by taking the ball up to Charlton continually, he had one of his most successful matches.

TURNER WELL WATCHED

Partly because of the close attention he was accorded by Arsenal defenders, Turner had few real chances but the mere fact that he could never be left unattended tended to make it easier for the others.

On this occasion, Adam was not so prominent as McLeod, but he was always willing to chase and fight for the ball.

Perhaps more than anywhere else where the Town had the pull was at half-back where Morton and Pearce completely outshone the Arsenal pair, both in defence and attack.

From Morton, there was a superlative all-round display with Pearce little behind him, and these two forceful players maintained a rugged grip throughout.

Between them was Owen with a mastery over Vic Groves and using his generalship to the full.

So well did Hawkes play that Le Roux was scarcely seen until he moved into the middle in the Arsenal switch-about and Dunne coped with Nutt adequately.

Even though he was troubled by his thigh injury, Baynham looked more the part of an International goalkeeper than Kelsey, who was inclined to fumble something that Baynham never did.

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

ARSENAL: Kelsey; Charlton, Evans; Holton, Dodgin, Goring; Le Roux, Herd, Groves (V.), Bloomfield, Nutt.

Referee: G. McCabe, Sheffield.

"Always Luton were the better balanced, more direct and harder shooting team."—"News of the World."

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"Luton's football has developed an aristocratic air that stems from confidence in their own craftsmanship."—"Sunday Express."

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"Toast of Luton? It's Allan Brown, of course."—"The People."

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"The whole Luton machine went into top gear and stayed there."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"Centre-forward Allan Brown, who scored three goals, and the left-wing pair of John Groves and George McLeod had all the room in the world to organise a dozen goals."—"News Chronicle."

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"This was a game of sharp contrasts. First, the contrast between Luton's skilful team blend, toughened with fighting spirit, and Arsenal's lack of cohesion. . . . Ron Baynham looked a world Cup class goalkeeper."—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"The four-goal gap is explained by Luton's superb wing-halves and the brilliance of Allan Brown."—"Daily Mail."