

INJURY TREATMENT FOR BAYNHAM AND HAWKES

BOTH SHOULD BE FIT FOR TOWN'S CUP-TIE

Season's Best Crowd Saw Arsenal Well Whipped

By Chiltern

WITH the hectic League programme of last week over, the Town got down quietly yesterday to preparation for the Cup-tie at Stockport on Saturday.

Most of the players were training as usual on a local works ground, but two, Ron Baynham and Ken Hawkes, remained at Kenilworth-road for treatment.

Baynham returned on Saturday after having to stand down from the Boxing Day match with a bruised thigh muscle which is still a little troublesome.

HAWKES received a similar type of injury against Arsenal, but both should be fit by the week-end, though Baynham was also complaining about a slight chill yesterday.

The players leave Luton for Blackpool on Thursday morning, and will complete their training within sight of the sea on Friday.

All the Town's share of stand tickets for the Cup-tie have been sold, but there has not been a heavy demand for tickets for the enclosure and terraces.

Those left at midday today will be sent back to Stockport, who have applications which they cannot meet from their share. By yesterday, about 650 tickets had been sold to Town fans.

Old Year Ends On A High Note

ON paper, December looked to pose just about as difficult a programme as the Town could face, and it began none too promisingly with that 5-0 defeat at Portsmouth.

However, despite enforced changes because of injuries and illness, they collected seven points out of the next 10, and were beaten afterwards only by Manchester United when deprived of three of their key players.

So, the old year has ended on a high note for the Town, with the great victory over Arsenal last Saturday setting the seal on a very good first half of the season.

This Team Has Won All Three Matches

IN view of the fact that the Town expect to be able to field what they regard as their full-strength team for the Cup-tie at Stockport, it is encouraging to note that on the three occasions they have played together, they have collected full points by an aggregate of 11-2.

For the first time in a home League match the Town collected full points from Arsenal, before the third biggest League gate the ground has ever housed.

The League record stands at 27,911. Tottenham drew 27,319 in 1949, but Arsenal still hold the

encouragement to Town officials who had desperately been casting about for reasons why their attendances had been so low earlier on.

However, if the Town maintain the form they showed against the Gunners, there will be no more grumbling about lack of support.

Vintage Football From The Town

FROM the Town we saw some vintage football during one of the best first halves there has been on the ground for many a long day.

It was 45 minutes of thrills and excitement that could have produced a lot more goals than the two which Allan Brown scored to create tremendous scenes of excitement and enthusiasm.

Each team hit the woodwork with goalkeepers well beaten and at half-time, the score could well have been something of the order of 5-2 in the Town's favour.

They cut through the Arsenal defence consistently and Brown, with fine support from his colleagues, had a great day.

Will Not Move From The Entrances

IN both the last two home matches, some spectators have found difficulty in securing positions from which they can have an adequate view, and Secretary Phil Coley attributes this to the fact that so many people leave their arrival until the last minute and the early comers will not move from the entrances.

The support they received last week has been a matter of

Brown Is Receiving Better Service

FIVE of the eight goals Brown has scored this season have



For The Records

LUTON TOWN 4

Brown (3), Groves

ARSENAL 0

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.

Attendance: 27,291.

come in the last five matches, and much of the increased service he has been receiving has come from John Groves, whose play has been a revelation since he was restored to the team at inside-left.

Groves and a very-much-improved McLeod had a hand in both the first two goals which came in the 23rd and 31st minutes.

Both were close-range efforts by Brown, who also had bad luck with a crashing header.

Another who was most unlucky was Morton, after coming through in typical fashion and then, with his left foot, cracking the ball against the bar.

Arsenal Vulnerable Down The Middle

NOT only were Arsenal vulnerable through the middle, but Charlton had little idea of stopping McLeod and, with the Town playing direct football all the time and the ball being pushed through, not only by Groves, but by Morton and Pearce, goals always seemed a likely happening.

It was scarcely to be expected that the Town would keep up this cracking pace for the whole of the next 45 minutes and, indeed, Arsenal, looking tighter in defence, showed more soundness in the second half.

Two or three times they looked as if they might get back into the game, but were foiled by brilliant goalkeeping by Baynham.

Goal-getting Load More Evenly Spread

DESPITE this, the Town never really lost their grip, but it was not until seven minutes from the end that their third goal came and then it was Groves who accepted a pass from Brown to score his third goal in four matches.

Then, with a bare minute remaining, came the event that everyone had hoped for, apart from the Arsenal fans, of course. Brown completed his hat-trick during a scramble in front of goal in which Adam and Turner had been prominent.

One thing that gives a good deal of satisfaction is that the load of goal-getting is being spread more widely than it was, with some of the responsibility



Allan Brown was the scourge of the Arsenal defence on Saturday, and he rounded off a very satisfactory afternoon by scoring a hat-trick—his first for the Town. In this picture Jack Kelsey, the Arsenal goalkeeper, who had a very busy afternoon, makes a daring save from the Luton centre-forward. — R2556R

being taken off the shoulders of Turner.

Turner Was Always Closely Watched

THIS top marksman did not score and, in fact, had something of a quiet match, but he was very closely marked and, in any case, may have needed this outing after his groin injury.

However, he was always in the danger zone and the fact that he was well covered meant that loopholes appeared elsewhere.

Brown's hat-trick, his first since he joined Luton, must increase his considerable chances of forcing himself back on to the international scene with Scotland, and Arsenal must have unhappy memories of him because he caused them to lose their home match with the Town at Highbury last season.

Pin-pointed Passes From Groves

ON this occasion, the left wing was much the more effective, with Groves continually pushing through pin-pointed passes all along the carpet and he is filling his role most faithfully.

McLeod beat Charlton continually by taking the ball right up to him and this was his best performance for several matches.

In addition, he showed plenty of fighting spirit, a quality with which the whole team is well-endowed and this, combined with their splendid football, is one good reason why the Town are being quietly tipped in many quarters for a good Cup run.

Great Strength In The Middle Line

FOR Adam, there was not so much of the ball as came the way of McLeod, but he showed

tenacity in the way in which he came back to fight for it and several times had Evans groping.

Again there was tremendous strength in the half-back line where Morton and Pearce assumed a grip in the middle of the field from the start and never relaxed it afterwards.

Morton, who had been in bed with a heavy cold earlier in the week, was positively brilliant, not only in his defensive work, but in the way in which he came through with the ball and with a bit of luck would have had a couple of goals.

Owen Was Dominant In The Middle

NOT very far behind his standard was Pearce whose shots at goal were wilder than those of Morton, but his strong tackling and distribution of the ball made him a great success.

Nor did Owen give anything away against Vic Groves whom he put pretty much out of the game and, after the opening minutes, there was never much threat down the Town's middle.

Neither the dash of Le Roux, nor the presence of Charlton, who moved to outside-right during the second half because of a slight groin injury, caused Hawkes any misgiving.

Hawkes Has Done A Manful Job

SINCE he came into the side, Hawkes has done a manful job and has taken to this class of football like a duck to water.

Wisely, he is not attempting any frills and his straight-forward play is just what was wanted in defence.

Dunne, too, did not have a great deal of trouble from Nutt

and the defence as a whole looked sound and workmanlike.

Although Baynham felt some trouble from his bruised thigh muscle when kicking, he made several brilliant saves and looked a good deal happier than did Kelsey who received a deal of practice from the sharp-shooting Town forwards who blazed away at goal whenever they had the chance.

Reserves Lost A Two-goals Lead

AFTER holding a 2-0 lead at half-time, through goals by Cullen and Legate the Town failed to hang on at Ipswich and, in the end were beaten 3-2.

On the run of the play, Ipswich, for whom that very experienced centre-forward Blackman, scored twice, just about deserved both points, but the Town could count themselves unfortunate.

The winning goal was the result of a slip by Alan Collier, home on leave from Germany and who, having not had a game for a month, was a bit out of touch.

Seven Players Under 20 Years Of Age

ON the surface, this was not a bad performance by the Town, seven of whose players were under the age of 20.

By and large, the defence was sound, with no real weakness, but there was not sufficient power in finishing from the forwards.

Of these, Cullen and Gregory were the best, but there were times when the ball was being held too long and not being used to advantage.

For young David Rowlands his first sample of Combination football was a little too much, but he was not helped by a thigh injury.