

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Stockport looked winners all the way from the moment they rocked Luton with a three-minute goal. For all that Luton really had to show in reply was one shot."—"Sunday Pictorial."

"Stockport insisted in playing good football at greater speed and with greater determination than the First Division outfit."—"Sunday Express."

"Luton were hammered, pounded and thrashed by better football from start to finish. In the second half there was only one team in it. Luton were run off their feet."—"Sunday Graphic."

"Third Division Stockport wrote a page of glory into their history."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"The Northerners fully deserved this far-from-a-fluke victory. The home attack even outdid their visitors in pure football ability. It was a great and well-deserved victory for a Stockport team who made light of their recent poor form in the League."—"News of the World."

"Don't think this was a triumph for crash-bash merchants, Stockport were faster, slicker, brainier. They were all heroes. Frankly, Luton were routed."—"The People."

"It was a triumph of skill and guts against a Luton team which was never allowed to find its feet."—"Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

DISASTROUS PAGE IN THE TOWN'S HISTORY Cup Interest Ended In Sensational Fashion

By Chiltern

STOCKPORT COUNTY 3, LUTON TOWN 0

ONE of the most disastrous pages in the Town's post-war history was written in the Edgeley Park mud at Stockport on Saturday when they made their exit from the F.A. Cup in entirely unexpected fashion.

This result was all the more of a shock because in various quarters, the Town had been strongly tipped as potential Cup-winners and Stockport were very much the outsiders before this encounter began.

However, instead of steering to the comfortable victory most people expected, the Town found themselves just about run off their feet by an immensely enthusiastic, fast, dashing team who rose to the occasion in tremendous style.

If Stockport played above themselves, then the Town were a good deal below the form of which they are capable, and they never recovered completely from the shock of being a goal down in three minutes.

In fact, after that setback, there was never a period during which anyone could feel completely confident that the Town would turn the tables on this opposition, which showed unexpected quality.

More than that, the Third Division team adapted themselves far more ably to the needs of the occasion, were fast and straightforward in everything they did, and, altogether, thoroughly deserved their success.

NOT GIVEN CHANCE TO SETTLE DOWN

They used the old classic plan, adopted by the Town many times in the past, when meeting a team from a higher division, and just gave the opposition no chance in which to settle down.

Quick, hard tackling, combined with their own mistaken tactics of short passes and running with the ball in the mud, were the rocks on which the Town's Cup hopes for this season foundered.

However, the effect of that early goal on both teams cannot be minimised. It was the sort of flying start Stockport must have prayed for and the disaster the Town most wanted to avoid.

JACKSON it was who sent all Stockport wild with enthusiasm when he came from behind Morton to head unerringly into the far corner of the net a cross by Franklin that Morton just failed to reach with his head.

Hard though they tried, the Town could not get the goal that might have changed the whole course of this game, though it should have come when Adam shot straight at Grieves from eight yards.

Brown and Morton just cleared the bar with raking drives and Pearce was considerably higher with one of his "specials," but, by and large, the Stockport defence looked very sound under pressure.

While the position for the Town was serious, it was by no means critical while they were only one behind, but they might have had more to think about during the interval had Stockport's luck really

been in during a couple of melees in one of which Davock struck a post.

At half-time, the Town must still have been thinking in terms of at least a replay, but this began to look a forlorn hope when, 12 minutes after the resumption, HOLDEN took advantage of a slip by Owen out near the wing and began a long run at the end of which, although challenged by Dunne and Owen, he beat Baynham with a cross-shot.

The Town's interest in the Cup really ended then because, although Morton was switched to centre-forward and Groves pulled back to right-half, Stockport's grip was so secure that they were rarely in trouble.

Then, just to rub it in, HOLDEN scored again seven minutes from the end with a hard drive after Finney had pushed the ball to him past Hawkes and Owen.

Most of the hundreds of Town fans who watched this sensation unfold itself must have found difficulty in believing that it was really happening.

But after that early goal, Stockport held all the trumps. They looked faster and stronger and certainly made the most of the scoring opportunities that came their way.

Had the Town made the ball do the work as their opponents did, they might have gained more success, but they did not vary their tactics sufficiently.

STOCKPORT WERE PREPARED

Obviously, Stockport knew the direction from which the trouble was likely to come because they buttoned up the middle finely, with Franklin having a great game and being covered splendidly all the time.

As a result there was not a lot of scope for Brown, hard though he worked, and Turner was seldom in the picture as a likely scorer.

With the middle blocked so successfully, more use could have been made of the wingers, but neither Adam nor McLeod was really dangerous, and although Groves worked hard to get things moving, he did not open up play so well as he might have done.

Only in patches in the first half did the Town move in their best style, and this was mainly when Morton and Pearce were able to gain command.

By and large, though, they did not take a tight grip on the inside forwards and Owen was much worried by Holden and the clever way in which he held the ball.

Not only was there danger from the inside trio, but the wingers were fast and lively, and Dunne, about whose appearance there was some doubt on the morning of the match because of stomach trouble, could not get to grips with Davock.

For Hawkes, who was the stronger tackler on this occasion, there were some harassing moments from Finney, too, and so it can be seen that the Town had their troubles both fore and aft.

However, no-one could pin any blame on Baynham for this shock result because he had no chance with any of the goals and there were occasions when he saved the Town.

STOCKPORT COUNTY:
Grieves; Betts, Webb; Murray, Franklin, Clempson; Finney, Moir, Holden, Jackson, Davock.

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

Referee: E. Crawford, Doncaster. Attendance: 18,200.