

QUIET ATMOSPHERE UNTIL GOALS CAME

Town Took Long Time To Cash In On Superiority

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 3, ASTON VILLA 0

UNTIL the goals made their belated appearance, there was a strangely quiet atmosphere about this match in which a Town team, although below their best in attack, gained a comfortable victory.

Weakened Villa's contribution to the afternoon's proceedings was mainly that of ruggedness in defence that enabled them to reach the interval on level terms though, in point of fact, they should have been well in arrears.

On a sticky, difficult pitch, the Town forwards, with the balance of play much in their favour, and receiving splendid support from Morton and Pearce, could not force things at close quarters.

Part of this was due to the covering of Villa's defence, but part of the blame was theirs, because far too many passes went astray and there was a distinct tendency to walk the ball through when the penalty area was reached.

There might have been a different story had Turner's boot directed the ball into the net early on, instead of just wide of the post as Sims and Crowther crashed into him, and this effort was the nearest the Town came to scoring, apart from a couple of good attempts by Brown.

The best chance Villa had went to Southren, and Baynham did extremely well to reach the ball with his finger tips.

With the Town doing so much of their pressing there was always the danger that Villa would break away to get a shock goal, and that is just what should have happened just after the interval.

Hitchens was left with a clear run to goal by Myerscough, but, with only Baynham to beat, he pulled the ball inches wide of the near post.

At last, in the 55th minute, the Town secured the goal that ought to have come much earlier, and it was the industrious Brown who made it possible.

Taking a pass from ADAM, he raced down the wing, beat Ashfield and then placed the ball so accurately that all Adam had to do was to tap the ball over the line.

With the Town now showing more urgency in their work, that was the beginning of the end for jaded Villa, and six minutes later TURNER was left with the easiest of chances from a cross by Groves. Appeals by Villa on the

grounds of offside were turned down.

It was nearly all Luton after that, and a badly placed back pass by Birch 13 minutes from the end led to the third goal through McLEOD, who followed up hard and forced the ball through as Crowe sought to kick it off the line.

Other goals might have been scored, and had the remainder of the forwards been in the same form as Brown, Villa would have had a severe thrashing.

BROWN WAS BEST

Brown was easily the best forward on the field. Strong, fast, and clever, he led the Villa a real dance and was most unlucky not to add to his total of goals.

For Turner, this was a quiet sort of match, and more came from Groves who, after tending to keep the ball too close early on, pushed through a number of fine through passes afterwards.

Once again there was not a great deal of finishing power on the wings, where McLeod took too long in which to make up his mind about what to do next, and Adam wasted a lot of material in the first half.

However, Adam gained marks for his industry later on, when he spent quite a lot of time inside, with Turner on the wing.

Villa's inside-forward trio was just snuffed out by the brilliance of Morton, Owen and Pearce, and Hitchens, with little support anyway, and a dominant centre-half against him, had a thin time.

Apart from their defensive work, both wing-halves made good use of the ball, and Pearce, supremely confident, was often to be found streaking down the middle in anticipation of a through pass after starting a movement.

Any worries there were about the danger that might accrue from McParland were unfounded because the Irish winger was well below form and, in any case, was given very little scope by an improved Dunne.

Although there were times when Southren made some room for himself, on the whole Hawkes held him, and while few direct shots reached Baynham, the goalkeeper did have chances of showing his brilliance in cutting out high crosses.

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

ASTON VILLA: Sims; Lynn, Ashfield; Crowe, Birch, Crowther; Southren, Sewell, Hitchens, Myerscough, McParland.

Referee: J. W. Hunt. Portsmouth. Attendance: 16,602.

THE LUTON NEWS,
Thursday, January 23, 1958. 9

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton's Scottish centre-forward Allan Brown is playing the sort of football that makes international selectors sit up and take notice anywhere."
—"News of the World."

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"Luton should have had this game won by the interval but their forwards, Allan Brown excepted, muffed chance after chance."
—"Reynolds News."

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"The Luton half-back line dominated the proceedings from start to finish and while they are playing this sort of form Luton must keep among the leaders."
—"Sunday Express."

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"Luton had so much of the game that it was almost boring to watch."
—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"Brown's incessant scheming produced Luton's first and second decisive goals."
—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"Luton goals were inevitable."
—"Sunday Graphic."

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"Luton, with no Cup worries, are obviously determined to finish high in the League table."
—"Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

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"This was Allan Brown's match."
—"The People."