

ANOTHER FINNEY WAS THE TOWN'S SCOURGE

Radical Change After Wednesday's Switch

By Chiltern

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2, LUTON TOWN 1

FINNEY is a name the Town will not want to hear again for a very long time because on two consecutive Saturdays a player bearing that name has been the direct cause of them being beaten.

This time it was Alan of that ilk who brought about their downfall at Hillsborough, Sheffield, after they had turned around a goal ahead and looked to be heading for another away victory.

During the first half, desperate Wednesday did quite a lot of pressing without seriously disturbing the composure of the Town's reconstructed defence and it was the Town who showed more method and skill in approach.

On very heavy going, they played some neat football in midfield, much of which fizzled out at the verge of the penalty area, mostly because some of the forwards hung on to the ball too long and also because the final pass kept on going astray.

One that did not, a through ball from Pacey led to the Town going ahead after 32 minutes when **TURNER** swung around quickly on to the ball and crashed it against the underpart of the bar from where it bounced over the line off the prostrate Ryalls.

After that, Wednesday looked considerably discouraged and in heavy pressure near the interval the Town might have clinched matters completely.

A DIFFERENT STORY

However, they did not do so and there was a different story in the second half, produced mainly by switching Finney from the left-wing where he had looked none too happy to the right where he made his name.

Immediately he teamed up with his old partner, Quixall, things began to go very wrong for the Town. Finney was too fast and clever for Hawkes who could find no way of stopping

all defence for the Town, with Finney and Quixall continuing to cause havoc.

Eventually, with 17 minutes left, Finney did it again and his centre was headed past the diving Baynham by **SHINER** who, shortly afterwards, missed a good chance of completing a hat-trick.

There was never the slightest suggestion that the Town could

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"If the Scottish selectors know a better centre-forward than Allan Brown they are lucky."—"Sunday Pictorial."

"The first half was almost all Luton, and they might well have scored three or four goals."—"News of the World."

"Until Wednesday took the lead, Luton — even though they were defending for most of the time—were the cleverer side."—"The People."

"Allan Brown was a really good footballing centre-forward. No wonder Allan is in line for recall to Scotland's team."—"Sunday Express."

"Luton's superior skill and speed earned them a deserved half-time lead. . . . Luton were impressive before the interval."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"Luton were struggling all the time in the second half, with Baynham never seeming to have a moment's respite. He made several magnificent saves. Ryalls, in the other goal, had practically nothing to do."—"Empire News."

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draw level after that and, indeed, the only serious task Ryalls had in the second half was to save a hasty back pass by Baker.

Even allowing for the fact that Groves and Pacey became over-run and had little time to feed in the second half, the complete fade-out of the Town forwards is difficult to understand.

One contributory factor was that Brown was playing under the handicap of concussion and double vision following a knock on the head in the first half and that cut down the mobility of the line.

In the first half, Brown had shown plenty of dash and worried the Wednesday, but he was prone to hold on to the ball too long and was often caught in possession.

Except for a spell of about 20 minutes in the first half, little was seen of Cummins and McLeod had a very unproductive time against Martin.

Most consistent of the forwards was Adam, who showed speed, cleverness and considerable determination but, his goal apart, Turner was not often dangerous.

Until the Finney switch, the defence was looking sound enough, with Kelly quite effective in the middle but, once the gap appeared, he was often drawn out of the middle to try to plug it.

Pacey, too, had been doing well against Quixall by dint of his strong tackling, but he became much over-worked after the interval and was often pulled across to challenge Finney.

Against Groves and Dunne, who were sound, the Wednesday left wing never threatened the same danger and it was unfortunate for Hawkes, who had been a success earlier, that he had not the experience to cope with a Finney who found his true form after a moderate patch.

There was quite a lot of work for Baynham, who made several great saves and there was little he could do about the goals.

**SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.** — Ryalls; Martin, Baker, McAnearney (T), Swan, O'Donnell; Wilkinson, Quixall, Shiner, Froggatt, Finney.

**LUTON TOWN.** — Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Adam, Turner, Brown, Cummins, McLeod.

Referee. — A. W. Sparling, Grimsby.

Attendance.—17,747.



Alan Finney

him and although Pacey tried hard to patch up the gap, this flank remained very vulnerable.

Time and again he made dangerous centres, often from the dead ball line and it was from one of these that **SHINER** put Wednesday on terms after 56 minutes.

Fastening on to the low pass, the centre-forward beat two defenders before cracking in a hard drive that nearly struck Dunne and which went in off the inside of the post.

That success gave Wednesday added strength and it was nearly