

NEWCASTLE WERE THE BETTER MUDLARKS

Were In The Lead For All But Five Minutes By Chiltern

NEWCASTLE UNITED 3, LUTON TOWN 2

THIS was not nearly so close a result as the bare figures would indicate because, while it is true that the Town could have gained a point had they shown more finishing power, Newcastle were in the lead for all but five minutes of the match.

Dreadful weather conditions cut the attendance down to the lowest Newcastle have had for many years and the teams were faced with a completely saturated pitch that quickly churned up into a morass.

This was not the sort of going to encourage the type of football the Town forwards wanted to play and it was the more open, less classical style of Newcastle that won the day.

They were helped considerably, though, by defensive errors and the first goal, after five minutes, came into this category.

Forerunner of it was a low shot by White that Baynham could not hold and the ball rebounded invitingly to the feet of DAVIES who could not miss at that range.

There could have been a far different start for the Town because in the first minute Whitby laid on a chance for Turner who, after finding some trouble in controlling the ball in the mud, sent it against the foot of a post when a goal looked certain.

Desperate Newcastle had their tension eased in the 23rd minute when BOTTOM increased their lead with a header from a free-kick on the right.

Baynham came out, but not far enough, and Bottom's header went just too high for Owen, who had dropped back in an effort to retrieve the situation.

WHITBY MARKED DEBUT

At this stage, Newcastle, with Bottom thrusting dangerously, were much in command, but the Town were given a chance of recovery 14 minutes from half-time when WHITBY celebrated his League debut with a neatly-taken goal from Turner's pass.

However, Newcastle's two-goals' lead was restored in the 60th minute by WHITE who hit in a rebound after Owen had stopped a shot from Bottom.

Groves missed a chance of improving the Town's position when he rounded Simpson and then did not get sufficient power behind his shot to force it past McMichael.

Still, with 16 minutes left, TURNER raised hopes by heading through a centre by McLeod, but Newcastle's lead never looked in real jeopardy.

This was a gruelling experience for both teams and accurate football on such going was a near impossibility. Newcastle won because they showed a better appreciation of the tactics that were needed and they moved the ball about readily.

Once again, the Town were sadly lacking in strength down the middle, where Groves was out of his element, held the ball too long and was generally too deliberate.

NOT THRUSTFUL ENOUGH

Nor was Cullen thrustful enough and it was from Turner that the Town had to look mostly for goals. However, though he fought hard, he did not find a lot of scope and was closely watched.

Whitby earned friends for the way in which he took his big chance because he had a very good first half, used the ball intelligently and it might have paid to give him more of the ball later.

In the first half, too, McLeod gained an ascendancy over Keith, but through a combination of an improvement by the right-back, and less service, the winger was not so prominent later.

Throughout the match, McGuffie and Pacey had to struggle with quite a lot of success, without ever gaining a mastery, and the Town owed much to the strength and determination of Owen.

One danger man, Mitchell, was

well held by Dunne, but Hawkes as not so happy against the fast-moving Hughes, on whom he could not gain a grip.

Baynham seems to be going through the sticky sort of patch that happens to everyone at some time or another and he made errors of judgment that are completely foreign to him.

NEWCASTLE UNITED:
Simpson; Keith, McMichael;
Scoular, Stokoe, Franks; Hughes,
Bottom, White, Davies, Mitchell.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham;
Dunne, Hawkes; McGuffie,
Owen, Pacey; Whitby, Turner,
Groves, Cullen, McLeod.

Referee: F. Cowan, Manchester.

Attendance: 16,570.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"The Newcastle pitch, after 24 hours' heavy rain, looked like a paddyfield. Luton did not take things lightly. They were always methodically dangerous, and if they could be faulted at all it was because they tried to overdo the pure Soccer stuff."—"The People."

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"Luton never showed that touch of adaptability necessary to win the talent money they can still share."—"Sunday Express."

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"Luton were much the more classy side in approach, but found the mud a handicap to their close-passing style."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"It was a desperate struggle for Newcastle to get through the last 15 minutes, but they just managed to keep Luton out."—"News of the World."

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"Luton showed they were not fourth in the table for nothing."—"Daily Express."