

TOWN WERE BOGGED DOWN IN NEWCASTLE MUD

UNITED LED NEARLY ALL THE WAY

More Drive In Middle Of The Attack Was Needed

By Chiltern

HOPES that the trip to Newcastle would enable the Town to end their spell without a victory were not fulfilled, nor did they really look as if they would be because they were in arrears for most of the match to a Newcastle team that battled hard for these precious points.

Conditions were appalling because heavy rain reduced the pitch to a quagmire and, at one time, there seemed to be some doubt about whether play would be possible at all. To make matters worse, rain fell for most of the match and these were not conditions suited to the Town forward line as it was constituted on this occasion.

HAD Brown been leading the forwards instead of being an enforced spectator, it might have been a different story, because it was driving power down the middle that the Town badly lacked, and Brown would have been just the man for this particular job.

Until he is back, and Manager Daily Duncan is hoping fervently that this will be against Chelsea on Saturday, then this front line will continue to labour under a handicap.

It is unfortunate, from the Town point of view, that they have no experienced, automatic deputy for him, and the attempt to overcome the difficulty has not been a success.

More Thrust Needed In The Middle

GROVES has had to take over a role unsuited to his style of play, and while he plays some good football, more thrust in the middle was badly needed on Saturday.

Groves was too deliberate in his methods, tended to keep the ball too close and there was not enough shooting from him.

Another who was a bit bogged down by the mud was Cullen, who tried hard to get things moving, but the going made the matter of accuracy in passing considerably difficult.

Time after time the ball had all the pace taken off it by the mud, and it was a question of strength triumphing in the end.

Joyful Davies Took This Rebound

DESPITE all the difficulties, this was a match from which the Town might well have had a point, even though they were two goals down in 23 minutes, something that would have taken

the steam out of many teams.

Both goals could be attributed to goalkeeping mistakes, the first of which was perhaps understandable in view of the slippery state of the ball.

In the fifth minute, Baynham went down to save a hard drive by White, could not hold on to the ball, which went straight to Davies, who joyfully booted it into the empty net.

Town Inches From Taking The Lead

BEFORE that happened, the Town could have been in the lead, because with almost his first kick in League football, Whitby made a great opening for Turner, who had trouble in controlling the ball in the mud.

When he eventually got in his shot he beat Simpson, but had the disappointment of seeing the ball strike the foot of the post.

That was an unlucky turn, especially as it was followed so quickly by the goal from Davies.

Things began to look serious when Bottom easily headed a second goal after 23 minutes, following a free kick from the right.

Whitby Took His Goal Coolly

ON this occasion, Baynham was caught "in between" because he came out, did not make enough ground, and, as things turned out, it would have been better had he remained in goal.

Back into the game with a chance came the Town 14 minutes from half-time when Whitby coolly accepted a cross from Turner to place the ball carefully in the far corner of the net.

With his lack of experience it would have been easy for Whitby to crash away at the ball, but he kept his head creditably and

picked his spot in the net with all the confidence in the world.

However, United maintained their narrow lead until half-time, though Turner missed a chance of equalising.

Groves Should Have Cut Down Lead

ANOTHER simple goal, with the Town defence caught in a tangle, changed the situation again 15 minutes after half-time, when White was left bang in front of goal after a shot by Bottom had been stopped on the goal-line by Owen.

That lead should have been cut when Groves fastened on to a pass from Owen, waltzed past the oncoming Simpson and, after shooting for an empty net, had the mortification of seeing McMichael come across to kick clear.

A bit more quickness in execution here and it must have been a goal.

Turner Set Stage For Exciting Finish

STILL, it was not long before the Town were within striking distance of their opponents again because haphazard covering by the Newcastle defence left Turner with an easy chance of heading the ball wide of Simpson.

There were 16 minutes left then and signs of anxiety among the Newcastle team, especially as White was injured in a collision with Baynham and after limping about painfully, eventually left the field with less than a minute remaining.

However, there was not enough punch about the Town finishing to really suggest that they could save a point.

Baynham Out In His Judgment

WITH the pitch in this state, due allowance had to be made for mistakes which were inevitable.

However, the Town paid dearly for theirs and it was strange to see Baynham's judgment so far out as it was on several occasions.

He certainly did not look the supremely confident goalkeeper he

FOR THE RECORDS

NEWCASTLE UTD 3
Davies, Bottom, White

LUTON TOWN 2
Whitby, Turner

NEWCASTLE UTD:
Simpson, Stokes, Franks;
Scoullar, Bottom, White;
Davies, Mitchell.

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

Referee: F. Cowan, Manchester. Attendance: 16,570.

has all this season, but this is probably an isolated case.

Quite a lot of trouble was caused by the probing of Hughes, on whom Hawkes did not get a complete grip and, once or twice, his inexperience showed itself in dealing with this young winger.

One Long Struggle For Wing-halves

ON the day, Dunne was the sounder full-back and he made a good job of holding Mitchell, who can be a match-winner.

Rightly, Newcastle cut down the frills and they had the sort of inside-forward the conditions demanded in the strong Bottom, who was always harassing down the middle.

With him, Pacey had quite a battle, but he came through strongly, though neither he nor McGuffie could be said to be completely on top at any period.

There was always a struggle for them and on this going it was something of a heart-breaking job, especially in distribution.

Whitby's Debut Was Most Promising

OWEN got the Town out of a lot of trouble at times, and ploughing through this mud was no sort of a picnic for him, either.

However, he was as strong and assertive as ever, and the quality of his captaincy was always apparent.

To make one's League debut in a match so vital to the opposition as this was asking a lot of Whitby, and to have to make it in the circumstances that ob-

tained on Saturday was doubly difficult.

However, Whitby made a considerable impression, particularly in the first half.

McLeod Worried Keith A Lot

CORRECTLY, he used direct methods, beat McMichael cleverly several times and contrived to make good use of the ball.

Unfortunately, he saw little of the ball after the interval, but even so, this was a promising debut by him and there is good material here.

McLeod beat Keith so many times in the first half that he threatened to emerge as the Town's match-winner.

However, Keith tightened up his defensive play considerably afterwards, and apart from the fact that support for McLeod tended to dry up, Keith was much more successful than he had been.

Encouraging Signs On The Wings

HOWEVER, there were encouraging signs of more directness and better finishing on the extreme wings, which have been one of the Town weaknesses lately. Could this have been matched with more go-ahead methods in the middle, the story might have been a different one, but Groves and Cullen were too much of a muchness and Turner was dangerous only in patches, though he might very easily have had more than one goal.

He was the one from whom Newcastle had most to fear, but with Brown absent, too much responsibility devolves on him for getting goals.

Powerful Spurs Too Good For Town

WHEN one realises just how powerful is the reserve strength of Tottenham Hotspur, it is not surprising that they occupy such a high position in the Football Combination table, nor is their goals tally of 119 unexpectedly high.

Without any exaggeration it is

fair to say that their team is up to the strength of several First Division sides.

On Saturday Tottenham beat Luton 4-1, and on this occasion they were without Duquemin and Stokes, two of the most thrustful and experienced players in the competition.

Dunmore Did The Hat-trick

TOTTENHAM were simply too good for the Town, and they took the lead in the third minute through Dyson.

Another goal, from Dunmore, just before the interval gave them a comfortable half-time lead, and Dunmore added two more to complete his hat-trick in the second half.

There was no doubting that Tottenham were the better side, yet they were a little flattered by the four goals margin in their favour. Luton had their moments but lacked punch in front of goal.

At the same time it should be pointed out that at least three times when Town forwards were going through in fine style they were pulled down on the very edge of the penalty area and in each case the free-kick was wasted.

Finishing Was Not Strong Enough

CUMMINS, who had quite a good game, was the victim of such tackles twice, and Rowland was also sent sprawling when he looked dangerous.

Even so, though, there was a noticeable difference between the finishing ability of both attacks and Luton's suffered by comparison with the visitors.

Dixon was not so penetrative as Dunmore and neither Adam nor Gregory was particularly impressive.

The wing-halves, Chambers and Hetherington, failed to get a grip on the game, and this left Kelly with a great deal to do.

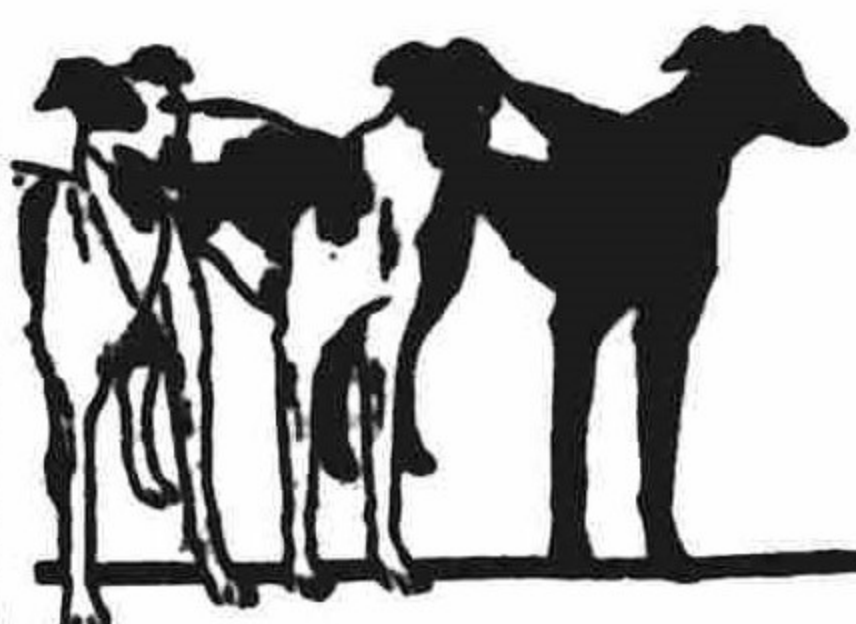
He tackled his job manfully and emerged as the most successful Luton defender, although Marsh, despite the fact that he was beaten four times, made several courageous saves.

To Lead The England Schoolboys

This Easter will be a memorable one for Robin Chandler, the Bech Hill C.S.M. centre forward, who has been chosen to play for England Schoolboys against Germany at Chester next Monday. Robin, who



also played for Luton Bedfordshire boys, did well in the English Schools' final at Bolton on Saturday, scoring once in a 7-1 win and leading the England team selection. He lives at 16, Grove, Luton.



EVER READY HAD TO BE DESTROYED ON SATURDAY

BECAUSE Gold Star died as the result of a collision with a motor-cycle, his place in the seventh race at Luton on Saturday was taken by Ever Ready, the reserve.

Strangely, Ever Ready fell at the first bend, broke a leg, and had to be destroyed.

1 (410 yards)—1, OLIVE (1); reserve: 2, Hawk Eye (5); 3, Pea Sticks (6); 4, Cracklings (3); 5, Red Leather (2); 6, Sunpark (4); 6, 7, 3, 2, 3, 25.25. Non-runner: Very useful (1). Of 7.45.

Betting: 5-4 OLIVE; 4-1 Pea Sticks, Sun Park; 5-1 Hawk Eye, Cracklings, Red Leather.

Forecast 11/20.

11 (470 yards)—1, TIMOTHY (4); 2, Fawn Star (5); 3, Hi Gang (1); 4, Old Sal (6); 5, Interpol (2); 1, 2, 3, 10, 28.88. Non-runner: Stroller (3). Off 7.05.

Betting: 6-4 TIMOTHY; 7-4 Old Sal; 5-1 Fawn Star; 8-1 Interpol; 10-1 Hi Gang.

Forecast 11/30.

111 (410 yards)—1, JIMP (5); 2, Gambler (6); 3, Light and Light (4); 4, The Orphan (1); 5, Kings-fare (3); 6, Little Noddy (2); 3, 10, 5, 1, 6, 24.65. Off 7.25.

Betting: 4-6 JIMP; 3-1 Little Noddy; 8-1 Gambler; 10-1 others.

Forecast 14/9.

IV (410 yards)—1, PERSIL (1); 2, Gay Fox (3); 3, King Sol (2); 4, Grannie (6); 5, Coniston (5); 6, Tudor Jinks (4). Hd, 3, 4, 10, 8, 25.06. Off 7.45.

Betting: 2-1 PERSIL; 3-1 Gay Fox; 7-2 Coniston; 5-1 Grannie; 6-1 King Sol; 10-1 Tudor Jinks.

Forecast 11/30.

V (470 yards)—1, WINGS (3); 2, Cheerful (4); 3, Zulu (5); 4, Donna (1); 5, Farm Baby (6); 3, 1, 3, 28.10. Non-runner: Coq D'or (2). Off 8.07.

Betting: 11-10 Cheerful; 2-1 Zulu; 9-2 WINGS; 6-1 Donna; 10-8 Farm Baby.

Forecast 11/9/9.

VI (410 yards)—1, SCATTY (1); 2, Sorrowful (2); 3, The Dove (5); 4, Wilco (3); 5, Snowy (6); 6, Tonto (4). 8, 3, 3, 2, 4, 24.28. Off 8.25.

Betting: 6-4 SCATTY; 2-1 Snowy; 6-1 The Dove, Tonto; 8-1 Wilco; 10-1 Sorrowful.

Forecast 12/8/3.

VII (470 yards)—1, LUMPY (1); 2, Drambaie (5); 3, Page One (3); 4, Dr. Paddy (4); 5, Vera's Pal (2); Ever Ready (6) (reserve).



Ogden's
EMPIRE BLEND
ST JULIEN
.... for Hand Rolling.

A BLEND OF EMPIRE GROWN AND OTHER TOBACCOS

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I

Arsenal v Nottingham Forest
Aston Villa v West Bromwich
Blackpool v Newcastle U
Bolton W v Manchester C
Everton v Tottenham H
Leeds U v Sheffield Wed
Leicester C v Burnley
Luton T v Chelsea
Manchester U v Preston N.E.
Sunderland v Birmingham C
Wolves v Portsmouth

DIVISION II

Barnley v Leyton O
Blackburn R v Rotherham U
Bristol R v Bristol C
Derby County v Cardiff C
Fulham v Middlesbrough
Ipswich T v Huddersfield T
Lincoln C v Stoke C
Notts County v Grimsby T
Sheffield U v Doncaster R
Swansea T v Liverpool
West Ham v Charlton Ath

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v Colchester U
Brighton v Northampton T
Exeter C v Coventry C
Gillingham v Walsall
Millwall v Bournemouth
Newport County v Crystal Palace
Plymouth A v Brentford
Port Vale v Torquay U
Q.P.R. v Shrewsbury T
Southampton v Watford
Sunderland U v Reading
Swindon T v Norwich C

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Bradford C v Barrow
Crewe Alexandra v Chesterfield
Darlington v Bradford

Gateshead v Carlisle U

Halifax T v Accrington S
Hull C v Oldham Ath
Mansfield T v Southport
Rochdale v Chester
Scunthorpe U v Hartlepool S
Stockport County v Bury
Workington v York City
Wrexham v Tranmere Rov

SCOTTISH CUP, SEMI-FINALS

Motherwell v Clyde
Rangers v Hibernian

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION I
Aberdeen v Celtic
Airdrieonians v Falkirk
Kilmarnock v Hearts
Queen of South v Third Lanark
Raith Rov v Partick T

DIVISION II

Brechin C v Arbroath
Dundee U v Albion Rov
Dunfermline v Dumfries
East Stirling v Stenhousemuir
Forfar Ath v Montrose
Hamilton v St Johnstone
Morton v Cowdenbeath
Stirling A v Ayr U
Stranraer v Berwick R

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Arsenal, Blackpool, Wolves, Blackburn, Fulham, Sheffield U, Brighton, Southampton, Rochdale, Scunthorpe.

FOUR AWAYS.—West Brom, Liverpool, Colchester, Chesterfield.

THREE DRAWS.—Everton v Tottenham; Derby v Cardiff; Halifax v Accrington.