

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Centre-forward Gregory and inside-right Turner were in fine form for Luton in the first half and made several openings which nearly led to goals."—"Sunday Express."

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"Luton were turned into despairing midgets by Albion's habit of becoming giants when they lose a man . . . Before Whitehouse went off, even Albion's famed inside trio of Robson, Allen and Kevan, could not get going, chiefly through Gordon Turner and some effective goal-packing."—"The People."

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"If this had been the Cup Final, Albion and Luton could not have fought harder than they did in this rip-roaring game."—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"If anything is guaranteed to make West Bromwich flare into action, it is the loss of a player. They have proved this a number of times this season and they recovered again against Luton after Brian Whitehouse had become the third Albion man to be carried off with a leg injury from the outside-right position this season."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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" . . . This fighting Albion team, a goal down when they lost Whitehouse, raced into the attack with such determination that they put three more goals through a badly rattled Luton defence."—"News of the World."

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"If ever a match proved that the Albion forwards bunched too much, this was it. For 57 minutes, they fiddled and short-passed their way into the hands of the Luton defence, but then Brian Whitehouse was carried off . . . From that moment, Luton never knew what hit them."—"Empire News."

HANDICAP SPURRED ON THE ALBION

Ten Men Wiped Out The Town's Deserved Lead

By Chiltern

WEST BROMWICH ALBION 4, LUTON TOWN 2

BUT for an untoward happening early in the second half which seemed likely to handicap West Bromwich but, in fact, had the opposite effect, the Town might have ended the season on a triumphant note.

Until Whitehouse was carried off the field with a badly damaged ankle 12 minutes after the interval, the Town had looked likely winners, in front and were much the more impressive side.

Departure of Whitehouse changed all that because Albion's forwards then found the form that had eluded them previously.

Maybe it was that they found more room and did not bunch together so much, or, maybe, they regarded the handicap as a challenge made to be overcome.

Whatever it was, their rally was both exciting and effective, and they had the Town defence reeling under some heavy pressure.

Earlier it had been the Albion defence who were in trouble and they went into arrears in the 16th minute when TURNER scored from the penalty spot after Barlow had prevented, with his hand, a pass from Cullen reaching Gregory.

Had their luck been in, the Town would have increased their lead, for Gregory made a brilliant run which he ended with a terrific drive, that beat Jackman, but struck the head of Williams as the ball was going in.

Seven minutes from half-time, Albion drew level with a simple sort of goal scored from longish range by HOWE. Baynham got both hands to the ball, but had not his body behind it, too, and it spun into the net.

KIND BOUNCE OF THE BALL

However, that state of affairs lasted only two minutes, and then TURNER received a kind bounce of the ball after it had hit the outside of the near post from Whitby's corner.

Reacting quickly, Turner turned and crashed the ball into the roof of the net.

An error of judgment by Baynham brought the equaliser after 61 minutes. He followed a long, rather deep corner from the right, never looked like reaching it, and the ball was nodded back into the middle by Robson for LEE to head through comfortably.

Seven minutes later came the incident that caused much heart-burning among the Town players when Turner was penalised for a foul on Setters during a goal-mouth mix-up.

There certainly seemed to be no grounds for such an award, but, appeal though they did, the Town could get nowhere, and ALLEN put Albion ahead for the first time from the penalty spot.

Shortly afterwards Turner had a chance of putting the Town level again, and, at the same time, completing a hat trick, when Whitby gave him a clear run through.

However, Jackman was too quick for him, and at the edge of the penalty area smothered the

inside-right's attempt to lob the ball over him.

That was the last opportunity that came the Town's way, and, 11 minutes from the end, LEE put the seal on this tremendous revival by side-footing a pass from Dudley wide of Baynham.

In defeat, there was consolation for the Town in that their play showed a marked improvement on that of recent weeks.

Particularly was this the case in attack, where the inside-forward trio shone brightly in the first half, with Turner the most dangerous forward on the field.

Continually, he was in the picture, and received solid support from Gregory, who had a very good first half, and from Cummins, whose use of the ball was much better, and who did much hard work.

Unfortunately the response from the wingers was not up to the same standard because Cullen was kept very quiet, and it was only by wandering into the middle at times that Whitby relaxed the grip England's right-back, Howe, gained on him.

Once again Groves showed his liking for the middle line, with a very strong display, and he and McGuffie shut out the Albion inside men until that sudden change came over the game.

Kelly, too, was more than adequate, playing confidently and never looked in trouble until the revival began.

Despite Lee's two goals—both scored from the centre-forward position—Dunne came through well, and it was not until Allen switched to the right wing, after Whitehouse's departure, that Hawkes was in real difficulty.

Against those two errors by Baynham can be put two wonderful saves from Kevan that really brought down the house, and it was strange that such a consistent goalkeeper should cost two goals.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION: Jackman; Howe, Williams (G); Dudley, Barlow, Setters; Whitehouse, Robson, Allen, Kevan, Lee (G.).

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; Groves, Kelly, McGuffie; Cullen, Turner, Gregory, Cummins, Whitby.

Referee: B. A. E. Buckle, Peterborough. Attendance: 20,300.