

A VICTORY SNATCHED FROM TOWN'S GRASP

Dramatic Equaliser Two Minutes From The End

By Chiltern

BURNLEY 2, LUTON TOWN 2

AFTER making the sort of start away teams dream about, at Turf Moor on Saturday, the Town just failed to stave off frantic Burnley attempts to equalise and with only two minutes remaining, were deprived of the victory that had seemed to be within their grasp.

Even so, it was a splendid performance to take a point from this Lancashire ground, but the Town players were disappointed at the way the point was snatched from their grasp.

From the second minute, when a mistake by Shannon let in Turner, who made an opening for the oncoming CUMMINS, who rammed the ball into the net, the Town looked like winners.

Even more so was that the case when, 15 minutes later, Morton centred, Bingham hooked the ball across and TURNER beat McDonald from close in.

Two up and playing some splendid football, the Town looked a very good bet at this stage, and there were nearly other goals for them, especially when McDonald failed to hold on to a shot from Bingham and was lucky to find Smith in position to kick off the line.

Harassed under pressure, the Burnley defence was tormented no end by the switching on the right wing of Bingham and Brown, well backed up by Morton.

This move was never really mastered, but it failed to bring further goals, partly because there was not quite enough snap in the finishing and partly because the Town did not have the best of luck with their shooting.

Apart from one shot by Newlands that Baynham saved brilliantly, Burnley were not much in it until half an hour had gone, and then NEWLANDS gave them fresh hope with a shot from an angle that went in just inside the far post.

What the Town wanted early after the interval was another goal to sap the confidence of the opposition, which was showing every sign of making this a fight until the end.

Some chances cropped up in the opening stages, when the Town were still the more constructive and skilful side. McDonald had to throw himself to a drive from Bingham, Turner missed from a reasonable position, and then was unlucky to find his point-blank shot blocked by Seith.

Fight Burnley certainly did, but although they forced several corners, these were mostly cleared by Baynham, and the quality of their shooting did not suggest that, for all their hustle and bustle, they could draw level.

In the end it was not a forward, but right-half SEITH, who did the trick with a hard drive from over 30 yards that caught Baynham at the wrong end of his goal, and although he dived he was always being beaten.

It was a dramatic, though disappointing finish for the Town,

who always played the better brand of football.

They did sufficient in the first half to have deserved and earned victory, with Bingham and Brown shining, and Turner having several telling shots at goal.

Nearly all the activity took place on the right flank, which meant that both Cummins and Adam at times found difficulty in getting into the game.

This evened up afterwards when Cummins spent quite a lot of his time at inside-right, with Turner alternatively at inside-left and centre-forward.

With more of the ball, Cummins was more prominent, and Adam, though he had the beating of Smith, did not really cash in on this advantage.

To a large extent, apart from some second-half activity by McIlroy, the Town half-backs successfully contained the Burnley inside-forward trio. Owen was the master of the middle, and both Morton and Pacey were strong and forthright.

When danger did begin to come the way of the Town, it mostly stemmed from the wings, and Newlands gave Hawkes rather an uncomfortable time after the interval.

Right through, there was potential danger from Pilkington, that tenacious winger, and Dunne had his work cut out to keep him in hand. In this he was quite successful.

Although Baynham was inclined to blame himself for the equaliser, it was one of those things that contained the element of surprise and it was all over in a flash.

All his work was done in effective style, and he compared very favourably with England's current goalkeeper, McDonald.

BURNLEY: McDonald; Smith, Winton; Seith, Cummings, Shannon; Newlands, Robson, Pointer, McIlroy, Pilkington.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; Morton, Owen, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, Brown, Cummins, Adam.

Referee: L. Howarth, Beverley.

Attendance: 23,760.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

Most national newspapers, while giving credit to the Town's fine first-half display, leaned heavily in favour of Burnley after the interval.

However, the consensus of opinion was that the Town were the better footballing side and should have made victory certain in the first half.

"... Now the fight was on, but Luton, always the better footballers and positional players, were deservedly holding out against a post-interval Burnley revival when the equaliser came with a goal in a hundred."—"The People."

"Luton should have had this game won in the first half, when Burnley were shaky and completely off balance after a defensive mistake in the second minute which let Cummins in to score."—"Reynolds News."

"Championship-hunting Luton, of the solid defence and sharp-shooting attack, were striding confidently towards another two points at Turf Moor against Burnley, and it looked as if they had taken everything Burnley could give."—"News of the World."

"All the Luton side looked good. Particularly that defence, in which Baynham, Owen and Pacey were outstanding. And their forwards, particularly Turner, are going to get a lot of goals."—"Sunday Express."

"There was little of Luton's skill and certainly none of their punch in Burnley's play, but the fight to salvage a point was there. All Luton could do was back pedal to try to hold out."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"During the first 20 minutes there was no indication that Burnley would be able to fight back as they did. All credit to them for doing so."—"Empire News."

"Until the interval Burnley played in disorganised fashion which contrasted vividly with the smooth play of Luton."—"Sunday Graphic."