

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"With a tremendous second-half rally, Luton completely crushed proud Preston. Their recipe for humbling the leaders: speed, dash and just plain, good football. Even the Preston purists had no idea what might happen next."—"The People."

"If Luton continue to play as they did against Preston, they will be up among the honours at the end of the season."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"Preston were deservedly toppled from the Division I leadership. Speed on the wings was Luton's ace—a factor which became more telling as the game wore on."—"Sunday Express."

"A most satisfying Luton performance this, and one that suggests that they will be difficult to displace from the top of the table."—"News of the World."

"With their policy of always trying to play constructive football, Luton nearly always prosper when they meet a team of similar calibre. Preston played themselves out of this match and off the top of the First Division by being too intricate in their movements and too delicate in front of goal."—"Daily Telegraph."

"... But Bingham's drive restored Luton's confidence. Along came Jimmy Adam with a couple of goals and Preston were sunk without trace."—"News-Chronicle."

"... In fact, on this particular show, Billy (that's my boy) Bingham and Jimmy Adam looked the best pair of club wingers in the country."—"Daily Herald."

"Lyrical Luton played like Soccer telepathists. The master brain in front was George Cummins; the brain behind was Sid Owen. Preston could learn plenty from big Sid's system of close covering."—"Daily Express."

WINGERS FOUND THE PUNCH FOR TOWN

Successful Rally Despite An Injury To Turner

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 4, PRESTON NORTH END 1

EVEN with Turner's effectiveness cut down by an ankle injury and his having to be content to limp at centre-forward, the Town forwards carried far too many guns for Preston in the second half of this very entertaining match.

After having had the better of matters before the interval without forcing home their advantage, the Town found their goal touch early in the second half and, unusual for them, the goals came from the wings.

Not for many a long day has each winger found the net for them in the same match, as Bingham and Adam did on this occasion, and it was the former, scoring for the first time since he joined the club, that began the Preston slide.

With 50 minutes gone, and the scores level at 1-1, BINGHAM made a great, low, left-footed drive from just inside the penalty area and jumped with joy as it hit the back of the net.

A brilliant feint by Cummins and a pass from Pacey combined to make the opening possible.

Fourteen minutes later, ADAM obtained his first goal when he followed up after Else had saved splendidly from Brown, and it was after another drive by Brown, pushed out again, that ADAM increased the lead when he ran into a clearance by Cunningham.

There had been a spectacular start to the match, with CUMMINS taking full advantage of a simple chance that came his way when Else and Cunningham collided in front of goal as they tried to clear Bingham's centre.

TURNER'S PENALTY MISS

Firmly back into the game came Preston, when HATSELL cracked in an unstoppable drive from just inside the penalty area, and after that Preston, shaken by their bad start, showed considerable improvement without impressing in their finishing.

Most of the 23,055 fans must have been certain that the Town would regain the lead when the referee awarded a penalty after Cummins had been pulled down by Walton.

Turner, previously deadly

accurate from the spot, was not deadly enough this time, because Else reached his shot and the ball was scrambled away.

Throughout, both teams played constructive football, and the Town won because they not only had the greater thrust, particularly down the wings, but their defence was much more solid and less liable to mistakes than was that of Preston.

Bingham was always a source of trouble to Walton and Adam gave Cunningham a harassing time once he discovered that he had the beating of him by taking the ball up to the opponent.

CUMMINS EFFECTIVE

From Cummins there was much effective scheming and intelligent use of the ball, and it is significant that the goals have begun to come since he was brought into the side.

That ankle injury to Turner was unfortunate but, even so, he produced the shot of the match in the second half—a tremendous drive that Else saved somehow.

Without quite being the force he can be, Brown is moving better now, and he seemed to appreciate the second half move that took him to inside-right.

Much of the Town's midfield dominance sprang from the grip the half-back line took on the Preston inside-trio, and both Morton and Pacey did a most effective wing-half job.

Down the middle, Owen formed a tremendous barrier and the way in which he is playing rather makes nonsense of his stated intention to retire at the end of this season.

Doubtless, Dunne found his task of holding Finney a good deal easier than he had expected and the England outside-left was in very quiet vein. Only rarely did we see him move in his classical style, and Dunne gave him very little room in which to manoeuvre.

From Hawkes, too, came a workmanlike display and, in fact, with Baynham handling the ball brilliantly, there was no hint of a weak link in this Town outfit, particularly after they had regained the lead.

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

PRESTON N.E.: Else; Cunningham, Walton; Wylie, Dunn, O'Farrell; Mayers, Thompson, Hattell, Lambert, Finney.

Referee: A. E. Westwood, Stratford-on-Avon.