

KEN HAWKES CAUGHT THE LIMELIGHT

His Goal Put Town On To The Recovery Road

By Chiltern

PORTSMOUTH 2, LUTON TOWN 2

KEN HAWKES is no glamour-class player. No one speaks of him in terms of International caps, but he has done a very useful stint in his whole-hearted, fearless way for the Town in 36 consecutive League matches since he made his First Division debut.

But, during this spell which has lasted nearly 12 months, Hawkes has not played such a telling part in a match as he did at Fratton Park on Saturday.

With 25 minutes to go and the Town two goals down, and, judging from the way they were going, not a great deal of hope of recovery, HAWKES suddenly took a hand.

Following up an attack, he found the ball coming through to him following a scramble in the penalty area, and, from 35 yards, he hit it fairly and squarely first-time.

Doubtless, Uprichard was unsighted by a crowd of players, and the ball went through unerringly into the net.

That was the straw in the wind for which the Town had been looking ever since the minute before half-time when Portsmouth put themselves into a very strong position.

Then, HARRIS made considerable ground in a sudden rush to meet a corner from the left, and, with the Town defence taken by surprise, dived full length to head the ball out of Baynham's reach.

Dunne was close enough to make a challenge, but received only a bruised thigh muscle for his pains, while Harris was led off for attention to a head injury from which he recovered during the interval.

UNBELIEVABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS

That had increased the lead which Portsmouth took in the seventh minute through SAUNDERS, who rocketed the ball into the far top corner of the net after Owen had been beaten by the bounce and also, so it looked, by a push.

For the Town to be two goals behind at half-time was an almost unbelievable state of affairs, because they had played all the pure football, pressing for long periods.

However, their finishing was

poor, and too many raids broke down prematurely against the robust tackling of the Portsmouth defence.

Chance of the match went to Turner after a free-kick by Owen had been pushed across by Bingham. From seven yards, Turner, with the goal yawning in front of him, skied the ball well over the bar.

Hawkes's opportunistic effort was the first ray of sunshine that came the way of the Town in the second half and, naturally enough, it put new life into them. During a series of raids immediately afterwards, Adam shot inches wide of the far post and the game swung the Town's way.

With 10 minutes left, Brown, intercepting a back pass, was stopped at the expense of a corner, the award of which Portsmouth disputed.

From Bingham, the ball came across. BROWN went up higher than Uprichard, met the ball with his head and although Dickinson kicked away, the linesman ruled that it had crossed the line.

Then came the Town's testing time and more limelight for Hawkes, who cleared off the goal-line twice during heavy Portsmouth pressure in their attempt to retrieve the good position they had lost.

VALUE FOR POINT

No doubt at all that the Town were value for their point because they were always the more skilful side. Portsmouth pinned their faith in dash and speed and had no one capable of holding the ball in the cultured manner of Cummins.

Continually, Cummins was directing and changing the point of attack, and, with Adam, he formed the most dangerous wing on the field.

Next in line was Bingham, who suffered from lack of adequate support because Turner had a thin time and the penetrative power of the forward line was further cut by the fact that Dickinson kept close tabs on Brown.

Early on, the defence looked none too sure of itself but it settled down, due in no small measure to the example of Owen and resourceful wing-half play from Morton and Pacey.

Dunne overcame a worrying start when he had to cope with the switching of Barnard and Harris and was often beaten, to put up a brave defence and Hawkes, apart from his spectacular moments, was mostly on top against Cutler.

No one could fault Baynham for the goals and he was always confident and highly competent in his handling of the ball.

PORTSMOUTH: Uprichard; Rutter, Wilson; Phillips, Dickinson, Casey; Cutler, Newman, Saunders, Harris (H), Barnard.

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

Referee: B. M. Griffiths, Newport.

Attendance: 24,831.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Two mistakes by Pompey goalkeeper Norman Uprichard cost a point, but it would have been a travesty of justice if Luton had lost."—"Sunday Pictorial."

"Portsmouth were left flattened, apart from one or two races after long balls down the middle. Only old England player Jimmy Dickinson kept calm."—"The People."

"The obvious skill of Luton Town, rather too casually demonstrated at times, was just sufficient to measure up to Portsmouth's more rugged efforts at Fratton Park."—"News of the World."

"Portsmouth must cover up defensive weaknesses as well as improve in their finishing. Luton should not have been so casual in the early stages."—"Empire News."

"True, Luton found themselves two down at the interval to these speedy power-punchers . . . but Luton's classy soccer paid off."—"Daily Herald."

"Luton's football ability was obvious. And yet they were two down at half-time to a Portsmouth team that only showed honest endeavour."—"Daily Express."