

OWEN STOOD DOWN AS A PRECAUTION LAST NIGHT

PACEY TRIED OUT AT CENTRE-HALF

Groves And Gregory Were Included In The Team

By CHILTERN

AS a precautionary measure and in view of the severe test the Town are likely to have on Saturday against the much-improved Newcastle United, Sid Owen stood down from the team that played at Portsmouth last night in the Southern Floodlit Cup.

After Saturday's match, he reported a slightly pulled muscle in the thigh, but there is no reason to fear that he will be prevented from making the Newcastle trip.

ON this occasion, the Town took the opportunity of trying out in a serious match the theory that Dave Pacey can be converted into a centre-half.

Owen himself thinks that this is on the cards and it was a highly interesting experiment.

At left-half, John Groves came in and the other change was at outside-right, where, with Billy Bingham on International duty, and Brian Whitby finding it

come a habit with the Town.

They did it at Portsmouth and again on Saturday against Aston Villa, whom they beat far more narrowly than should have been the case.

This match should have been well won early on but, as things turned out, they had to wait until the 75th minute for the winning goal.

Any other result would have been a plain miscarriage of justice, but the Town, if they are to maintain their high position and their challenge to the leaders, cannot afford to continue to miss their scoring chances.

Too Many Using Spoiling Tactics

ONCE again, clever midfield play tended to fizzle out into nothing when the penalty area was reached and this was most marked in the first half when they played nearly all the constructive football, but scarcely produced a worthwhile shot.

To some extent, the forwards were put out of their stride by the tough Villa defence who lived up to their recent tradition of defensive robustness.

It does seem to me that more and more teams in the First Division are relying on spoiling tactics which is certainly not helping to increase the standard of football.

More Punch Is Still Badly Needed

IN fact, pure footballing sides such as the Town aim to be, are becoming fewer and fewer—at least on the evidence we have seen so far this season.

At the same time, the Town must remember that midfield cleverness is not the beginning and end of it all and they still



Dave Pacey

need to find some punch from somewhere.

Of course, if Turner is coming back to scoring power, the problem will be well on the way to complete solution and his two goals in this match were a very welcome sign, indeed.

Strange Goal Came As A Surprise

YET, in the first half, he posed very little danger to the Villa defence nor, for that matter, did Brown, who was very much in the grip of Dugdale.

Right against the run of play, the Villa scored first, after 36 minutes, and the goal was not only a surprise, but so was the manner in which it came.

A through pass by Sewell found Hitchens in an open space for almost the first time.

He mis-hit the ball which went in just inside the post, with Baynham standing watching it.

Whether the goalkeeper thought the ball was going wide, is hard to say, but it was a strange circumstance.

Began Second Half With More Drive

SO, Villa went off the field at half-time very fortunate leaders and it was obvious that some measure of improvement was necessary from the Town attack if the unbeaten home record was to be maintained.

Evidently, this had been the half-time topic, because the Town began the second half with altogether more drive and the Villa were forced right back on to the defensive from the start.

However, they did not find the finish until the 60th minute when Turner obtained a great goal in very much his best style.

Turner Had A Fine Hat-trick Chance

ONE of Cummins's slide-rule passes led to it and Turner ran on past Dugdale and crashed the ball past Sims from just inside the penalty area.

It was the Town completely on top, but they had to wait for another quarter of an hour before they went ahead for the first time.

Then, during a melee in front of goal, Turner got his foot to the ball and it curled tantalisingly out of the reach of Sims. A fortunate effort, maybe, but it was a very deserved one.

Almost immediately, Turner had a great chance of completing a hat-trick from Adam's pass but, instead of steadying himself, he swung at the ball first-time and sliced it weakly wide.

Justice Was Served In The End

WITH a much switched forward line, Villa tried to stage a late revival, but they were driven off fairly easily and it was not until the last minute when McParland broke through, to be foiled by a hard tackle by Pacey, that they even looked like getting an equaliser.

So, justice was served in the end, but at the cost of much more effort and strain than should have been necessary.

Once again, the defence was strong and well drilled, with Owen doing his usual highly competent job in the middle and underlining just what that department owes to him.

No Menace From The Inside Trio

IN fact, so sound was the half-back line as a whole that the menace from Villa's inside-forwards was practically negligible.

That much, their manager, Eric Houghton, admitted to me afterwards and it would not be surprising if he is in the transfer market soon.

Only forward about whom the Town had any worry at all was McParland who began at outside-left, switched with Barrett, brought into the side at the last moment because Smith developed an attack of flu, and, in the second half, had a spell at centre-forward.

McParland Had Little Support

HOWEVER, apart from the fact that whichever Town defender was facing him gave him

no scope at all, and I thought Hawkes played him particularly well, there was very inadequate support for him.

Hawkes gave nothing away right through the piece, nor, for that matter, did Dunne, and the strong tackling of Morton and Pacey broke up many Villa raids in their infancy.

Of quite high standard, too, was the wing halves' service to the forwards and, the goal apart, Baynham was never in any trouble at all.

Bingham Always A Danger

FORWARD, the chief danger to come from Bingham, who gave Sharples a highly uncomfortable first half despite the fact that he



Billy Bingham

was badly shaken up two or three times by some fierce tackling.

However, cleverly though Bingham is playing, I do feel that too large a proportion of his centres is being cut out and he might, with benefit, vary them.

Even so, he should have been brought more into the game after the interval. During that period some delightful football came from

Greyhound Racing

It Was A Braw, Bright Nicht For Kiltie!

KILTIE is a name Luton greyhound followers should note. In its first run-out at Luton Stadium on Saturday this brindle dog, which carried odds of 10-1, scorned the form book and won the sixth race by six lengths.

Kiltie left trap number four like a flash and showed its tail to the rest of the field right round the 410 yards course. Second dog was 100-8 Hoplight in trap number six. The Kiltie-Hoplight combination paid out the biggest Tote forecast dividend of the meeting — £8 13s. 3d.

I (410 yards)—1, SUGAR LASS (5); 2, Cry Wolf (3); 3, Tiger (2); 4, Just Jake (4); 5, Peebles (6); 6, Ray's Girl (1). 6, 2, 4, 1, 11, 24.82. Off 6.45. Betting: 2-1 Peebles; 5-2 SUGAR LASS; Tiger; 6-1 Ray's Girl; 8-1 Cry Wolf; Just Jake. Forecast: £2 15s. 6d.

II (470 yards)—1, JENNIE'S CHANCE (2); 2, Ekco (6); 3, Mr. Chips (4); reserve; 4, Tusher's Pride (5); 5, Iza (3); 6, Interpol (1). 6, 3, 1, 3, 31, 27.52. Non-runner Jim's Boy. Off 7.06.

Betting: 9-4 Ekco; 3-1 JENNIE'S CHANCE; Interpol; 4-1 Tusher's Pride; 10-1 Mr. Chips; Iza.

Forecast: £1 1s. 3d. III (410 yards)—1, POWDER PUFF (2); 2, Rose Vale (3); 3, Ryan's Rose (4); 4, Lopsy Lugs (5); 5, Why Not (1); 6, No Reply (6). 1, 5, 4, 1, 1, 24.79. Off 7.26.

Betting: 9-4 No Reply; Why Not; 4-1 POWDER PUFF; 6-1 Rose Vale; 10-1 Ryan's Rose; 100-8 Lopsy Lugs.

Forecast: £4 14s. 6d. IV (410 yards)—1, MIXER (3); 2, Rooney (2); 3, Ian (1); 4, Tudor Jinks (6); 5, Norcen (5); 6, Heddon Girl (4). 5, 5, 6, 2, 9, 24.15. Off 7.46.

Betting: 2-1 MIXER; 7-2 Rooney; Ian; Tudor Jinks; 20-1 Norcen; Heddon Girl. Forecast: 16s. 6d.

V (470 yards)—1, DONNA (3); 2, King Cole (2); 3, Laxton Superb (5); 4, Jackie Jones (4); 5, Mildew (1); 6, Tonto (6). 11, 1, 1, 5, tie-d. 27.38. Off 8.07.

Betting: 6-4 Jackie Jones; 5-2 DONNA; 9-2 Laxton Superb; 6-1 King Cole; 7-1 Mildew; 8-1 Tonto.

Forecast: £2 8s. 3d. VI (410 yards)—1, KILTIE (4); 2, Hoplight (6); 3, Stamp (3); 4, Icknield (1); 5, Phadads (5); 6, Flash Girl (2). 6, 2, 1, 2, 1, 23.99. Off 8.27.

Betting: 4-5 Flash Girl; 4-1 Stamp; 6-1 Phadads; 7-1 Icknield; 10-1 KILTIE; 100-8 Hoplight. Forecast: £8 13s. 3d.

VII (470 yards)—1, LEGAL TENDER (5); 2, Happy Lad (3);

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 2

Turner (2)

ASTON VILLA 1

Hitchens

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

ASTON VILLA: Sims; Lynn, Sharples; Lee, Dugdale, Crowe; Barrett, Sewell, Hitchens, Myerscough, McParland.

Referee: F. H. Gerrard, Preston. Attendance: 18,714.

Cummins, who is right back in peak form.

Cummins's Accurate Distribution

NOT only is he showing clever footwork in midfield, but he is distributing the ball most accurately, and it only remains for Turner and Brown to find their true form for the Town to be among the goals to a more marked extent.

Nothing much was going right for Turner until he scored, nor can I recall much in the way of finish from Brown, who has not yet regained his old snap.

Adam's speed enabled him to have the beating of Lynn, but quite often his old fault of inaccurate finishing crept in to spoil his good approach work.

Improved Reserves Won Away

WITH promotion and relegation in being in the Football Combination, Town officials have been looking with some dismay at the rather low position occupied by the Town Reserves.

However, there has been a considerable improvement in their play recently and they had a good 4-3 win over Charlton at The Valley on Saturday.

Groves and Gregory gave them an early two-goals lead, pegged back to 2-1 at the interval, but Barry Hawkes and McNally made it 4-1, with 11 minutes to go.

Then Charlton suddenly roused themselves to score twice in two

minutes, but the Town hung on without much difficulty.

Collier Celebrated His Wedding

COLLIER celebrated a memorable day for him—he was married in the morning—by giving a most effective display in goal and the Town certainly have no



Alan Collier

need for worry about this position now that he is back.

Best of the defence was Kelly

'PICTORIAL' WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

and he received solid support from McNally and Daniel.

The two players from the Army, McGuffie and Collins, did quite well, and there was plenty of materials for the forwards who, however, tended to make things hard for themselves by keeping the ball too close.

From Barry Hawkes there was quite an impressive first appearance of the season though he is obviously short of training.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I
Aston Villa v Everton
Blackburn R. v Birmingham
Blackpool v West Brom
Chelsea v Leeds
Manchester Utd. v Burnley
Newcastle Utd. v Luton Town
Nottingham Forest v Manchester City
Portsmouth v Leicester City
Tottenham v Bolton Wanderers
West Ham v Arsenal
Wolves v Preston N.E.

DIVISION II
Barnsley v Stoke City
Brighton v Bristol Rovers
Bristol City v Fulham
Cardiff City v Lincoln City
Charlton Ath. v Sheffield Wed.
Grimsby T. v Derby Co.
Huddersfield v Sunderland
Liverpool v Leyton Orient
Middlesbrough v Scunthorpe
Rotherham v Swansea
Sheffield Utd. v Ipswich T.

DIVISION III
Bournemouth v Brentford
Bury v Wrexham
Colchester v Swindon
Doncaster v Halifax
Norwich C. v Hull C.
Plymouth v Newport
Queen's Park R. v Southampton
Reading v Mansfield T.
Rochdale v Accrington
Southend v Bradford C.
Stockport v Notts Co.
Tranmere v Chesterfield

DIVISION IV
Bradford v Coventry C.
Chester v Carlisle Utd.
Crewe Alex. v Millwall

Crystal Palace v Gillingham
Hartlepool v Oldham
Northampton v Walsall
Port Vale v Exeter C.
Southport v Gateshead
Torquay v Aldershot
Walsley v Barrow
Wokingham v Darlington
York C. v Shrewsbury T.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION I
Clyde v Rangers
Dundee v Stirling Alb.
Dunfermline v Celtic
Falkirk v Kilmarnock
Hibernian v Third Lanark
Motherwell v Raith Rovers
Partick T. v Airdrieonians
Queen of the South v Hearts
St. Mirren v Aberdeen

DIVISION II
Albion Rovers v East Stirling
Alloa v Brechin City
Arbroath v Dumbarton
Ayr Utd. v Dundee Utd.
Berwick Rang. v Hamilton Acad.
Montrose v Stenhousemuir
Queen's Park v Forfar Ath.
St. Johnstone v Morton
Stranraer v Cowdenbeath

SELECTIONS
TEN HOME: Blackburn, Manchester Utd., Nottingham Forest, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Sheffield Utd., Plymouth, Reading, Northampton, Walsley.
FOUR AWAY: Arsenal, Sheffield Wed., Accrington, Coventry.
THREE DRAWS: Tottenham v Bolton, Barnsley v Stoke, Chester v Swindon.

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Algerian Wine, red	6/3	*** Brandy, Cognac	41/-
Vin Rose	8/-	Jamaica Rum	36/4
Aligote, White Burgundy	8/6		
South African Hock	7/6	PORT	
Veuve Grenier Champagne	23/-	Alto Douro, full bodied	16/-
		SHERRY	
		Amontillado, medium dry	16/6
		Fino Bonito, dry	16/6

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