NEW FORWARD LINE WAS SOON CHANGED

Switches Failed To Save Unbeaten Home Record

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1, TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 2

THE shadow of the absent Turner loomed darkly over this game and thoughts that the selectors must have had, that the changes they made would improve the finishing power of the front line, proved to be very wide of the mark.

In fact, at half-time, there was what amounted to tacit admission that a mistake had been made, in that there were three positional changes in attack which had the effect of taking Brown into the middle again and a new right wing of Gregory and Bingham.

But the plain fact was that neither combination was effective but, even so, the Town should not have met with their first home defeat of the season.

They had their chances in the first half when the covering of the Tottenham defence was open to criticism and there were occasions when near panic seemed to develop during heavy pressure.

Good opportunities were missed by Gregory and Brown and the first half scoring was limited to a great goal by DUNMORE which came after only 11 minutes.

So, once more, the Town laboured under the handicap of an early set-back, the result of hesitation in defence of which Dunmore made the utmost with a searing 20 yards drive that left Baynham groping vainly.

In the second half, Tottenham looked the more compact force, with the Town using the wrong tactics in the greasy conditions by tending to run with the ball and often they were caught in possession.

Nor was the passing accurate enough to carve out scoring openings though Brown once shot straight at Hollowbread from close in and Bingham had a first-timer not far wide.

BINGHAM'S EQUALISER

BINGHAM it was who gave the Town fresh hope 12 minutes from the end with a glorious drive about which Hollowbread could do nothing, after Adam had laid on the chance.

That changed the situation and forced Tottenham back on the defensive, but any hopes of a dramatic Town recovery to win were firmly put out five minutes from the end.

Then, with Dunne hesitating, facing his own goal with the ball at his feet from a centre from the right, MEDWIN came in quickly to rush the ball through.

From the Town point of view, this was certainly an unsatisfactory affair with the lack of punch again deeply underlined.

Quite the best of the forwards was Adam, who was too quick for Baker, and, who with the prompting of Cummins, laid on sufficient openings in the first half for goals to have come.

Cummins played some attractive football early on, but allowed himself to be bogged down afterwards, mainly because he hung on to the ball too long and ran into trouble.

NORMAN IN COMMAND

There was no real sign from Brown that he can increase the shooting power from inside-right and he could not make much of the strong Norman after he moved to centre-forward.

Inclusion of Gregory was a failure because Norman was nearly always a move ahead of him and he failed to settle down, too, on the wing.

Maybe, the switch inside of Bingham was designed to bring him more into the game than he had had the opportunity of being in the first half and it did have that effect though, unfortunately, it did not save the home record.

It was unfortunate that a late defensive error should cause that to go, but the fact remains that the forwards are not giving the defence any margin at all these days and they have been carrying the strain.

Some of the switching of the visiting forwards, particularly the double centre-forward plan of Dunmore and Smith, found some unusual gaps down the Town middle.

However, despite this, Owen played quite strongly, especially in the second half, and Pacey did not suffer by comparison with Tottenham's star wing-halves, either in attack of defence.

From Morton there was a strong contribution and his mistake apart, Dunne could be reasonably well satisfied with his showing against Medwin, as could Hawkes against Brooks.

Although Tottenham had shooting power, so much of it was off the mark that Baynham was not over-worked, though he did make a couple of masterly saves.

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

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: Hollowbread; Baker, Hopkins; Blanchflower, Norman, Iley; Brooks, Harmer, Dunmore, Smith, Medwin.

Referee: A Holland, Barnsley.
Attendance: 23,592.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

All the Sunday and daily newspaper critics seem to agree on one point: It was a mistake to drop leading goal-scorer Gordon Turner. Without him, they say, the Luton attack was punchless and unimaginative.

"Many Luton fans reckon that if Gordon Turner had not been dropped the Luton attack would have had the goals in the first half to enable them to retain their unbeaten home record."—"Sunday Express."

"While sharpshooter Turner was saving a point for Luton Reserves at Brighton, the reorganised League forward line made a succession of blunders in the first half against a Spurs' defence that was liable to panic under pressure."—"News of the World."

"Luton have nothing to be downhearted about. They did their share in lifting the play well above ordinary League level."—"The People."

"After watching the Spurs sweep to victory against this punchless and Turner-less Luton outfit, the urgent appeal from the supporters is: Bring back Turner, please."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"There may be no connection between Luton losing their unbeaten home record and the dropping of the club's leading goal-scorer, but it is difficult to see how even an off-form Gordon Turner could have failed to score at least a couple of goals against Spurs."—"Sporting Life."