

SEARCH IS STILL FOR THAT ELUSIVE GOAL PUNCH

POOR FINISHING COST TOWN MORE POINTS

Will Anything Come Of Middlesbrough Talks?

By CHILTERN

WITH exceptions such as the home matches with West Ham, Manchester City and Preston, it has been perfectly evident this season that the Town forward line needed more punch.

Several of the points that have come their way have been due to the sheer tenacity of the defence and, in the last two matches, the trouble has become accentuated.

Against Tottenham on Saturday, it was very much underlined that the Town certainly cannot afford the luxury of having even a below-form Turner in the Reserves.

WHETHER anything will develop from the interest they are taking in Middlesbrough's reserve centre-forward, Doug Cooper, remains to be seen, but this would appear to be a deal which is tied up with a possible exchange. Former Town manager, George Martin, saw Cooper score three goals at Ayresome Park on Saturday, and his report will be studied with particular interest at tonight's Board meeting.

On the other hand, the Chairman, Mr. P. G. Mitchell, will make a report on the conversation he had with the brother of the Middlesbrough manager, Bob Dennison, after the game at Kenilworth-road.

Inquiry About A Town Player

BILL DENNISON, who is based on Northampton, does some scouting for his brother and, apparently, came primarily to discuss with Mr. Mitchell the inaccurate report that appeared in a national newspaper, concerning Turner, early last week.

He wanted to assure him that Middlesbrough were not responsible for it and, at the same time, I understand that he did make an inquiry about a Town player.

Who it is, the Town are not saying, except to emphasise that Turner is not in it and that his name has not been mentioned.

Not Usually Keen On Exchange Deals

AS for the watching of Cooper, the Chairman told me that they had told Middlesbrough when the matter first cropped up that they were interested in him and would have a look at him in the near future.

In the past, the Town have not been very keen on exchange deals, and so far there can be no more than vague speculation, and

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spearhead, he was not all that successful.

Missed The Boat In The First Half

THESE days, Bingham does not seem to be getting his share of the ball and it was more often out on the left wing, perhaps because of the inside-forwards. Cummins was the better promoter.

Adam, finishing better than he has in some previous matches this season, laid on some splendid chances in the first half, but they were allowed to go begging.

As things turned out, the Town missed the boat before the interval and the positional alterations that were made, although they looked wise enough in theory, did not really turn up trumps in practice.

Spurs Defence Become More Confident

BACK in the middle, Brown did not worry Norman much either and although Bingham brought some extra liveliness inside, Gregory looked out of his depth at outside-right, well though he played in the position in the Floodlit Cup-tie at Portsmouth defence looked more settled and secure.

As time went on the Tottenham confidence and the Town became more muddled in their approach. Tottenham were the stronger more compact team in the second half, but really their shooting was not a lot more accurate than that of the Town, though they certainly did more of it.

Bingham Lit Up The Dreary Scene

FEW shots came of the calibre of the one with which Dunmore gave Tottenham the lead after 11 minutes.

With Dunmore and Owen apparently having a misunderstanding, Dunmore was on to a pass from Smith in a trice and the ball flashed wide of the diving Baynam's left hand to crash into the net.

Much of the second half was scrambling and play had become almost dreary when Bingham suddenly lit up things with a great goal from a well-judged pass by Adam.

From just inside the penalty area he bested Hollowood with a cracking drive and it seemed for a few minutes that, with this tonic, the Town might go on to win.

Dunne's Hesitation Cost A Goal

THERE were 12 minutes left then and anxiety began to show in the Tottenham defence as the Town crowded on pressure.

Another vital goal might have come from a centre by Bingham which neither Brown nor Adam could reach, but it seemed that that unbroken home record was safe enough now.

However, Tottenham pulled themselves together and, with five minutes left, gained a winning goal that should never have come about.

A long centre from the right fell at the feet of Dunne, who was facing his own goal.

He hesitated about how to clear it and while he was doing so Medwin rushed up to force the ball into the net.

Would Turner Have Made A Difference?

A TRAGIC mistake this and it certainly would have been better had Dunne pushed the ball for a corner, which was the obvious move in the circumstances in which he found himself.

What would have happened had Turner, even below his best, been

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 1
Bingham
TOTTENHAM H. 2
Dunmore, Medwin
LUTON TOWN: Ingleton; Dunn; Hinchey; Hanson; Owen; Pacey; Baynam; Brown; Gregory; Cummins; Adams.
TOTTENHAM: Hollowood; Baker; Hughes; Blackthorn; Norman; Ray; Brooks; Hamner; Dunmore; Smith; Medwin.
Referee: A. Holland, Banbury.
Attendance: 23,392.

in this match, can only be a matter for conjecture.

But there was the salient fact that the Tottenham style of play, with its often making sorties upfield, did tend to make the room which an opportunist like Turner needs.

There were in front of goal chances like these which he usually accepts with alacrity and that is as deep as I propose to go into the matter.

Adam Best Of Town Forward Line

THE bare fact emerges that the changes were a failure and Adam was quite the best of the front line.

Cummins played some good football in the first half, but tended to allow himself to be bogged down afterwards by holding on to the ball and, generally speaking, there was too much running with it and not sufficient use made of the open spaces.

Greyhound Racing

FAVOURITES HAD A POOR NIGHT

IT was a poor night for the favourites at Luton Stadium on Saturday. The only top money dog to win was Icknield (2-1) in the seventh race.

Kittie, a brindle dog that had won its previous two outings at Luton in easy style, did not finish the course in the fifth race. It was involved in a collision at the first bend and fell.

I (410 yds)—1, MANDY (6); 2, Junior (2); 3, Page One (5); 4, Pluto (3); 5, Fur Muff (4); 6, Rabbit (1); 12, 2, 6, dist, dist; 24.84. Off 6.47.
Betting: 2-1 Page One; 3-1 MANDY, Junior; 7-2 Pluto; 6-1 Fur Muff; 8-1 Rabbit.
Forecast: £1/6/9.
II (470 yds)—1, SAGITTARIUS (3); 2, Noreen (2); 3, Old Farm (5); 4, Honohulu (4); 5, Noddy (6); 6, Pip Emma (1); 5, 4, 2, 2, 4; 28.70. Off 7.08.
Betting: 5-2 Honohulu; 3-1 Old Farm; 7-2 Noddy; 4-1 Noreen; 5-1 Pip Emma; 6-1 SAGITTARIUS.
Forecast: £5/6/9.
III (410 yds)—1, HOOP-LA (1); 2, Midnight (6); 3, Fancy Lass (5); 4, London Cry (2); 5, Arden Girl (3); 6, Jim's Boy (4); head, 7, 5, 8, dist (photo for first place); 25.22. Off 7.28.
Betting: 5-4 Midnight; 5-2 Jim's Boy; 5-1 HOOP-LA, Arden Girl; 10-1 Fancy Lass, London Cry.
Forecast: £2/2/-.
IV (410 yds)—1, LAUGHING BOY (3); 2, Derek (6); 3, Mixer (2); 4, Ash Tray (5); 5, The Dove (4); 6, Shirley Jane (1); short head, 4, 3, 10, head (photo for first place); 24.59. Off 7.50.
Betting: 6-4 Ash Tray; 7-2 LAUGHING BOY; 4-1 Derek; 5-1 Mixer; The Dove; 10-1 Shirley Jane.
Forecast: £5/4/3.
V (470 yds)—1, THE AGENT (3); 2, Houghton Boy (6); 3, King Cole (1); 4, Big Sue (5); 5, Lay Off (4); Kiltie (2) d.n.f. (fell); 1, 8, 2, 4; 28.07. Off 8.10.
Betting: 6-4 Kiltie; 5-2 THE AGENT; 11-4 Lay Off; 7-1 Big Sue; 8-1 Houghton Boy; 10-1 King Cole.
Forecast: £2/10/6.
VI (410 yds)—1, TEA COSY (2); 2, Saucy Jack (5); 3, Sunshine Rum (1); 4, Donna (3); 5, Can-Can (6); 6, Gazelle (4); 1, 5, 1, 3, 4; 24.73. Off 8.29.
Betting: 6-4 Saucy Jack; 7-2 TEA COSY; 4-1 Donna; 5-1 Gazelle; 8-1 Can-Can; 10-1 Sunshine Rum.
Forecast: £1/3/3.
VII (470 yds)—1, ICKNIELD (2) reserve; 2, (dead-heat), The Case (3) and Rooney (6); 4, Jennie's Chance (4); 5, Stripe (5); short head, dead-heat, 2, 11 (photos for first and second places); 28.65. Non-runners Party Line (1), Solitude. Off 8.50.
Betting: 2-1 ICKNIELD, Rooney; 4-1 The Case, Jennie's Chance; 6-1 Stripe.
Forecast: 19/- and 8/3.
VIII (410 yds)—1, SQUEAKER (5); 2, Stamp (2); 3, Blue Jet (6); 4, Lady Gay (3); 5, Vic's Pal (1); 6, Rumba (4); 2, 23, 2, 1, 5; 25.06. Off 9.14.
Betting: 6-4 Stamp; 11-4 Blue Jet; 7-2 SQUEAKER; 6-1 Vic's Pal; Rumba; 8-1 Lady Gay.
Forecast: £1/14/-.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

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

DIVISION II
Barnsley v Lincoln
Brighton v Swansea
Bristol City v Southport
Cardiff City v Sheff. Wed.
Charlton v Leyton O.
Grimsby v Ipswich
Huddersfield v Fulham
Liverpool v Bristol Rvrs.
Middlesbrough v Derby Co.
Rotherham v Sunderland
Sheff. Utd. v Stoke

DIVISION III
Bournemouth v Chesterfield
Bury v Swindon
Colchester v Newport
Doncaster v Bradford City
Norwich v Notts Co.
Plymouth v Wrexham
Q.P.R. v Brentford
Reading v Halifax
Rochdale v Hull
Southend v Mansfield
Stockport v Accrington
Tranmere v Southampton

DIVISION IV
Bradford v Darlington
Chester v Exeter
Crewe v Gateshead
Crystal Palace v Coventry

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

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

DIVISION II
Arbroath v Stranraer
Cowdenbeath v Berwick
East Stirling v East Fife
Hamilton A. v Ayr Utd.
Montrose v Dundee Utd.
Morton v Albion Rovers
Queen's Park v Alloa
St. Johnstone v Brechin C.
Stenhousemuir v Dumbarton

SELECTIONS

TEN HOMES: Blackburn, Nottn. Forest, West Ham, Barnsley, Bristol City, Norwich, Plymouth, Northampton, Port Vale, Torquay.

FOUR AWAYS: Preston, Fulham, Hull, Coventry.

THREE DRAWS: Cardiff v Sheff. Wed.; Q.P.R. v Brentford; Hartlepool v Carlisle.

At times, and this was most marked in the first half, Tottenham found the sort of gaps in Town defence that do not normally arise and much of this was due to the double centre-forward line operated by Smith and Dunmore.

Facey Had A Very Good Match

OFTEN, Owen was caught facing two opponents and, until the second half, was not his usual dominant self. Then he saved the Town several times with quick clearances.

Facey had a splendid first half both in attack and defence, and that Hamner had a comparatively quiet match was a tribute to his work.

Morton worked hard without using the ball with his usual elegance, and Dunne's very useful display against the speedy Medwin was marred by the late mistake which cost a point.

In his quiet, efficient way, Hamner did a good job, and no shred of blame could be placed on the shoulders of Baynam, who high-lighted his display with a couple of brilliant saves.

Problem Is: What To Do Now?

WHAT happens now? To me, and to most of those who saw this match, it seems patently obvious that this forward line set-up will not do.

There must be second thoughts, though on just what lines these will be, it is most difficult to say.

More scoring power must be found from somewhere and goal-punching forwards are what the Town lack most.

In any case, we shall not know the answer for the visit to Manchester United, who are fighting

to get out of a bad patch, until later in the week.

Unlucky Way To Drop A Point

DESERVELY, the Town Reserves came back from Brighton with a point, as a result, let it be said, of a goal from Turner. He took that very well and had a fair match at centre-forward.

Until 10 minutes from the end, the Town were ahead and then Albion put in a long centre which Collier shaped to catch and, as he did go was chased by Turner and fell over the line with the ball.

Red back on Collier who was caught off balance, because he had given a brilliant display. The better football came from the Town who, however, tended to keep the ball too close.

Kelly Outstanding In Defence

THIS did not really pay off against the bustling, hard-hitting Brighton team and their raids

were often broken up prematurely. Kelly was the better full-back, but the outstanding member of the defence was Kelly, who is having a spell of tremendous form. There was good backing for him from McGee and Walker, both of whom played some good football.

Some clever moves came from Owen, and Leggie should have won this match because he missed twice from close range.

Whitely was a mixture of good and bad, and Barry again showed promise which will develop more fully with more training.

Young Full-back Signed By Town

William Ball, a full-back who has been playing mostly in the Town's youth and Reserve League teams, has been signed as a professional.

April 17, he comes from Harrow and is giving up his job as a clerk in the Bank Exchange to become a full-time footballer.

Tall and well-built, he can play on either flank.

Boxing

BLOOD-SOAKED JOE REFUSED TO QUIT

A MATHEUR boxing made a brief, but welcome return to Luton on Saturday evening, when the Electrolux Recreation Club presented a 16-bout tournament in the works canteen, and a packed house of local boxing fans loved every minute of it.

Although the bill did not boast any of the big names in the amateur fight game the 2½-hour programme was packed with action.

Highlight of the tournament was a light welterweight contest between Eric Fountain, of St. Albans Boxing Club, and local boy Joe O'Connor, of the Electrolux Club.

After three thrilling rounds Fountain got the verdict on points. Deservedly so, because he was by far the better craftsman. But the cheers were for young O'Connor for his gameness and refusal to submit under a constant barrage of stinging blows from the hard-hitting Fountain.

It was evident from the opening bell that O'Connor was no match for the speedy and clever St. Albans man. O'Connor relied entirely on his weight advantage and immediately tried to pin Fountain on the ropes with a wild rush of swinging blows.

This surprise onslaught staggered Fountain for a moment, and it seemed that the Luton man's unorthodox tactics might have produced a quick knock-out.

Fountain, however, recovered quickly and smartly dodged O'Connor's second advance and countered with three quick lefts to the face. He spent the rest of the round avoiding O'Connor's tornado rushes and just before the bell he swung O'Connor on to the ropes and scored with a series of rights under the heart.

This proved to be O'Connor's most vulnerable spot and if he had not been saved by the bell the Luton man would have been in serious trouble.

From this point on, Fountain had the decision in the bag. During the next two rounds he

smashed O'Connor around the ring with a two-fisted attack to the head and body.

O'Connor's face became a blood-soaked mask as Fountain directed his attention to the cut he had opened on the Luton man's nose and mouth.

Many of the spectators thought the contest should have been stopped in the second round, but after examining O'Connor's face the referee allowed it to continue.

In the final round Fountain continued to deal out heavy punishment, but although badly dazed O'Connor kept an upright stance throughout.

FULL RESULTS

Bouts of the 15th Battalion R.A.S.C., beat a team from the Napier (Acton) and Polytechnic Boxing Clubs on an aggregate of 6-1.

Results—Schoolboys: W. Williams (Electrolux) outpointed T. Derby (St. Albans). Light welter: E. Smith (Napier's) beat R. McPherson (Electrolux) stopped 2nd round; E. Fountain (St. Albans) outpointed J. O'Connor (Electrolux); A. Maguire (R.A.S.C.) outpointed E. Chippendale (Napier); D. Mahoney (R.A.S.C.) outpointed A. Hewer (St. Albans); R. Fawcett (Napier's) beat E. Carter (R.A.S.C.) stopped 1st round; Welter: A. Henr (Napier) beat S. Watson (Vaughall) stopped 2nd round; E. Tate (R.A.S.C.) beat R. Johns (Napier's) stopped 3rd round; R. Elford (R.A.S.C.) outpointed J. Facey (Napier's); Feather: M. Greaves (R.A.S.C.) outpointed Murray (Napier's); Lightweight: F. Nohm (Napier's) outpointed A. Hawke (R.A.S.C.); Light middle: B. Mathie (R.A.S.C.) outpointed A. Tyler (St. Albans); B. Yarnold (Polytechnic) outpointed M. Freeman (R.A.S.C.); Middle: G. Adams (Napier's) outpointed G. Osborne (Napier's); Heavy: J. Palmer (R.A.S.C.) outpointed T. S. Parkin (Polytechnic).

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