

OLD TRAFFORD WAS A TRAGEDY FOR THE TOWN

EARLY REVERSES AND A MISSED PENALTY Injuries Handicapped Their Fight For Draw

By CHILTERN

STORY of the Town's match at Old Trafford was really a tragedy from their point of view. Almost before they knew the match was on, they were a goal down, they missed a penalty that would have enabled them to draw level at 2-2 and finished with the injured Brown and Pacey on the extreme wings.

Yet, they fought back bravely after the terrible start of conceding two goals in 12 minutes and, during the first part of the second half, there were times when they threatened to run United off their feet.

IN many ways I made them deserving of a point, though after the Pacey injury, 18 minutes from the end, United did much pressing that might well have brought them a couple more goals.

Pacey's trouble is strained ligaments of the ankle, which was badly swollen yesterday morning and it looks near enough certain that he will have to miss the match with Wolves and might be out for longer.

A pity this, because Pacey is playing so well that he must be missed. Fortunately, wing-half is a position for which the Town have good cover, but, all the same, the Pacey injury is a blow.

Lumbago Has Attacked Bob Morton

IN addition yesterday, Morton was on the message table for treatment to a severe attack of lumbago, but it is thought that this will have been cured by the week-end.

Because of a cold and a sore throat, Owen did not make his usual Monday visit to Oxford to coach the University, and the entire half-back line is out for this morning's match at Hallow in which the Town are meeting the station side who will shortly be in the R.A.F. Championship.

When they were asked to send over a team, the Town felt that it would probably be more valuable training than their usual Tuesday practice match. Although Brown's muscle was still sore yesterday, he will be running out.

Team: Baynham; Dunn; Hawkes; Kelly; Smith; Groves; Bingham; Turner; Brown; Cummins; Adams.

Brown Spent Second Half On The Wing

BROWN'S mishap came a minute from half-time, when he fell heavily after going up for a high ball, and was led off with a cut muscle which required the insertion of three stitches.

After four minutes of the second

PICTORIAL WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

ten drive from an angle threatened into the far corner of the net with Baynham not standing an earthly chance.

Again defensive slackness was responsible but, to their credit, the Town came back in the game's possible style, with the forwards moving well in midfield and Adams was unlucky with a shot that struck Cope and rolled inches wide.

FOR THE RECORDS

FOR THE RECORDS
MANCHESTER UTD. ... 2
Wolves, Chelmsford
LUTON TOWN ... 1
Camden

MANCHESTER UTD.—Gregg, Poulton, Carruthers, Goodwin, Cope, McClelland; Bradley, Quinn, Viollet, Chelmsford, Brown.

LUTON TOWN.—Baynham, Dunn, Morton, Turner, Brown, Cummins, Adams.

Referee—J. E. Smith, Chelmsford. Attendance 4,150.

half he returned, to go to outside-right, with Bingham in the middle, and this arrangement obtained for the rest of the match.

Just what happened to the Town's usually sound defence in the early stages, goodness only knows, but right from the start they looked most uncertain.

Viollet Took One And Missed One

PERHAPS the greasy state of the ground was partly responsible and it was in passing back to Baynham after making a mistake in the first place that Owen caused the first shock goal.

Just a minute had ticked by when Bradley's corner came over, Owen just managed to spoon the ball into the air and Viollet was able to pick his spot in the net for his header.

Indecision continued and another error by Owen should have given Viollet another goal when he was left with only Baynham to beat, but the goalkeeper stuck out a desperate foot to stop the shot.

In Dire Trouble For A Time

WITH United's young forward line scorching the hill, the Town were in dire trouble after 12 minutes when a typical Charl-

ing the kick, so deadly was Turner from the penalty spot. Unfortunately, his accuracy, or maybe his confidence, has been affected and, for the third time this season, he missed.

Did Gregg Move Before The Kick?

FROM the spot, he coaxed the ball hand enough, but not wide enough of Gregg, who was able to move to his right and beat the ball out.

In the rush for the rebound, Adams looked as if he would force the ball through, but it was scrambled away and the Town's golden chance had disappeared.

Did Gregg move before the kick? Afterwards, I met several who thought so and some Luton supporters told me that the forward on the far side had raised his flag, in their view, for the kick to be re-taken.

I can only say that I did not notice the signal and the referee was satisfied that the law had been obeyed.

Turner Badly Needed Success

THAT a team should benefit from an offence such as was committed on Bingham is one of those unfortunate things about which no one can do anything, but the plain fact remains that penalty kicks should mean a goal every time.

Greyhound Racing

AT this stage the game looked like turning into one of the heavy scoring, cut and thrust affairs but, strongly enough, that was the end of the scoring, though it should not have been the case.

By neither side was the quality of the shooting high, but United showed the greater enterprise in their shooting, whereas the Town for quite a spell before the interval held the midfield grip, looked good in their approach, but nothing much turned up in front of goal.

There were a couple of half chances, I would put them no higher than that, for Turner, but, in the main, the finishing was not good.

Bingham Robbed Of A Certain Goal

THEN came the Brown mishap and the danger of further trouble, yet when they still had only ten men, a chance of the second half, a chance of an equaliser went astray.

A centre from Bingham landed handily in front of goal and Turner and Cummins, in their anxiety, collided, and the latter's header flew the wrong side of the post.

After this the Town had their best spell in the match, during which they should have drawn level.

Bingham fastened on to a great pass from Cummins, dribbled the ball past the oncoming Gregg and was just standing himself to place it into the empty net when he was pulled down by the goalkeeper.

Turner Missed From The Penalty Spot

THERE was no doubt in the mind of the referee about what the decision was going to be and he pointed firmly to the penalty spot despite the gasps of the crowd, who looked as if he had been the offender one, and not the blameworthy offender.

Early in the season, I could have written a penalty in as a goal before the formality of taking the kick, so deadly was Turner from the penalty spot.

Yet, a surprisingly high percentage have been missed this season.

For Turner, struggling to regain his lost form and justify his return to the team, one could be nothing but sorry, and a season with this sort of very well have put him on top of the world again.

Despite the disappointment, the Town still looked the better side, but there was no real punch, though Turner was unlucky with a terrific drive that struck Carlson.

Cummins Tried To Exploit Weakness

ALWAYS, the United defence looked susceptible to the down the middle pass and Cummins tried hard to exploit it to the full but, unfortunately, there was no one to provide the head hitting stuff at close range that was surely needed.

When Pacey was injured and Adams dropped back to left-half, United came right back into the game and Bingham made several first-class moves.

He was beaten by a shot from Quinn which did not count as a goal because Harbison, on the goal-line, kicked away and afterwards, the only hint of an equaliser came when Turner slipped as he tried to hit a pass from Cummins first time.

Same Old Story About Attack

IN many ways, this was the same old story, with the Town showing real ability in midfield,

but not the zip and snap in front of goal to produce goals in any number.

While Turner did not make the spectacular return we hoped for, there were signs in the way he moved in midfield that some of his confidence has returned and it must be only a question of time before his old goal-scoring ability returns.

Still struggling to regain his touch is Brown when though he worked hard in midfield, was not threatening enough in the middle.

Bingham Needed Careful Watching

AFTER his rather unpleasant injury, he was not given a lot of the ball in the second half, though he made one thrilling run that had the United defence reeling.

I thought that Bingham should have been given more material in the first half in order to test the defender, Carlson, but it did not come his way and, when it did, he was inclined to try to do a little too much with the ball before passing.

When he moved into the middle, he always needed careful watching because of the slickness of his footwork, but he had not the weight, nor the height, to challenge successfully this full United defence.

Cummins Started Many Attacks

AFTER having been responsible for a lot of ill-judged passes in the first half, Cummins played an outstanding part in the second half rally, setting attack after attack in motion.

Always, he was fighting for the ball and he emerged as the Town's most successful forward because of his second half distribution.

Adams, too, was quite lively, but once again, the underlying need was for more thrust to round off the accomplished work in midfield and this is underlined by the fact that the three consecutive defeats behind them have all been by the odd goal.

Owen Has Seldom Had A Start Like This

FROM the nightmare beginning the Town defence made a good recovery, but the fact remains that the damage was done in those early minutes.

In the whole of his career, I should think that Owen has not had such an unhappy start as he did in this match when he made the sort of mistakes that are completely alien to him.

Creditably, he got over it, but he was never quite the dominant player we know. In facing two of the most talked about inside-forwards in the country, Morton and Pacey had a man-sized job which they tackled unworriedly, and most successfully.

Wing-halves On Top For Long Periods

CERTAINLY, they had something of a run around in the early stages when United were in full cry, but they did have command of the middle of the field for quite long periods, as a result of which the Town had quite a lot of pressure.

In the first half, Scalon worried Dunne, but did not finish well,

so that in the end, Dunne came through quite reasonably, as did Bingham, who was always a fighter against the quite speedy Bradley.

Bingham must have wondered just what was going on during that first quarter of an hour, and he certainly did his share to make himself the Town in the game with the chance of a point with the end with his brilliant move.

Brilliant Goals Robbed Chelsea

LUTON TOWN have robbed Chelsea Reserve of two Football Combination points with two fantastic, yet brilliant goals scored in the gathering dusk at Kenilworth-road.

Penalties—because at that stage Chelsea seemed to be content to a well deserved one goal win.

Brilliant—because both goals were stamped with the hall-mark of experience, the like of which has rarely been seen in a reserve match at Kenilworth-road this season.

For the majority of 80 minutes Chelsea's attack and swift attack, and last but not least, defence had thrown Luton off-balance.

Blunstone Was In Top Form

THEY managed the Town goal with style, and only grand guineasing by Collier and had lost their tally down to one—on unfortunate own goal scored by Town left-back Alan Daniel in the 30th minute.

Chief danger man was Chelsea's left-half international left-winger, Frank Blunstone. Frank proved beyond all doubt that his old fire and brilliance in returning after two nightmare seasons in which he twice broke a leg and then, more recently, damaged an ankle.

He gave Brandon McNally a nerve-racking afternoon, and provided a never-ending supply of glib-edged puns for his fellow forwards.

"Deep" Plan Was A Failure

THE Town's chief weakness was the failure of the half backs to form an effective link with the deep centre-forward operations of Tony Gregory.

For a period in the first half this modified version of his famous "Revie Plan" was worked efficiently, and at times it sent the Chelsea rearguard into a state of sheer panic.

But all too often the wing-halves crowded Gregory's movements and the result was chaos in mid-field.

With ten minutes left, Gregory threw off the Revie mantle and adopted the role of an attacking leader. The effect of this switch was immediate.

A Cannon-ball Shot From Gregory

A LONG ball from the defence found him standing a few yards outside the Chelsea penalty area. He controlled the ball quickly and then surprised Medley with a cannonball shot that fairly whistled into the roof of the net.

Then, only seconds before the final whistle, Jackie Walker, the Town's left-half ran 25 yards before blasting the winner past Medley from a considerable distance.

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DIVISION I Aston v Blackpool Birmingham C. v Manchester U. Bristol v Portsmouth Bury v Aston Villa Everton v Chelsea Leeds v Newcastle Leicester v Nottingham Forest Luton Town v Wolves Manchester C. v Blackburn Rovers Preston v West Ham West Brom. v Tottenham	DIVISION II Bristol Rovers v Middlesbrough Derby County v Charlton A.F.C. Ipswich v Barnley Leyton Orient v Bristol City Lincoln City v Rotherham Scunthorpe v Cardiff Sheff Wed. v Huddersfield Stoke v Brighton Sunderland v Sheffield Utd. Swansea v Grimsby	DIVISION III Accrington v Tranmere Barnet v Rochdale Barnsley v Bury Chesterfield v Colchester Halifax v Stockport Hull v Q.P.R. Mansfield v Norwich Newport v Reading Notts County v Bournemouth Southampton v Plymouth Swindon v Southend Wrexham v Doncaster	DIVISION IV Aldershot v Worthington Barrow v Torquay Cardiff v Southport Coventry v Chester
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Darlington v Port Vale Exeter v Watford Gateshead v Northampton Grimsby v Hartlepool Millwall v York Oldham v Crewe Shrewsbury v Crystal Palace Walsall v Bradford	SCOTTISH LEAGUE: DIVISION I Aberdeen v Queen of South Clyde v Raith Rovers Dundee v Third Lanark Falkirk v Airdrieonians Hibernian v Celtic Kilmarnock v Hearts Motherwell v Rangers Partick Thistle v Dundee St. Mirren v Stirling Albion	DIVISION II Albion Rovers v Dunfermline Aberdeen v Montrose Brechin v Stenhousemuir Dundee Utd. v Arbroath East Fife v Ayr United Forfar v St. Johnstone Morton v Cowdenbeath Queen's Park v Hamilton Stranraer v East Stirling	SELECTIONS TEN HOMES: Arsenal, Bolton, West Brom., Fulham, Sheffield Wednesday, Stoke, Bradford C., Wrexham, Coventry, Oldham.
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FOUR AWAY: Nottingham Forest, Liverpool, Reading, Port Vale.	THREE DRAWS: Manchester City v Blackburn, Lincoln v Rotherham, Halifax v Stockport.
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RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR TONIGHT

7.30 (410 yds)—21 Blarney: 233 Day Out; 214 Golden Sun; 556 H. Gang; 581 Nova; 515 Why Not; reserve 664 Lopsy Lugs.	7.48 (470 yds)—313 Ranger; 352 Dash Flight; 324 Doug; 55 General II; 155 Ben; 54 Tusher's Pride.	8.06 (410 yds)—353 Blue Jet; 465 Denny; 62 Heddon Girl; 532 Noreen; 551 Red Light; 314 Valley Prince.	8.24 (410 yds)—51 Bear Brand; 54 In-O-Luck; 5 Mad Polly; No Idea (Oct 23, tp 6, 24.48, Nov 18, tp 5, 24.05); 53 Record; 56 West Manor.	8.44 (410 yds)—512 Ash; 124 Granite; 231 Hawk Eye; Queen Bee (Nov 6, tp 4, 24.61, Nov 18, tp 4, 24.73); 51 Ruby Murray; Star Mar (Nov 6, tp 6, 24.58, Nov 18, tp 2, 24.80); reserve 3 Lily.	9.06 (410 yds)—32 Alex; 31 Fawn; 65 Midway; 165 Roman Nose; Star Gazer (Nov 6, tp 5, 24.40, Nov 18, tp 3, 24.97); 566 Tonto.	9.22 (470 yds)—311 Cheetah; 41 Colossal; 134 Jennie's Chance; 223 Rooney; 111 Suzanne; 141 We Four.	9.40 (410 yds)—325 Arden Girl; 442 Free Gift; 12 Pincapple; 462 Saxton Boy; 35 Snowflakes; 243 Willow.
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SELECTIONS 7.30—Blarney (Novo, Golden Sun) 7.48—Dark Flight (Doug, Ranger) 8.06—Noreen (Red Light, Blue Jet) 8.24—Record (Bear Brand, No Idea) 8.44—Hawk Eye (Ash, Granite) 9.04—Fawn Fly (Alex, Midway) 9.22—Suzanne (nap) (Cheetah, Colossal) 9.40—Pincapple (Free Gift, Saxton Boy)

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