

LOT WAS ASKED OF FOUR YOUNGSTERS

Policy May Have Been Glimpse Of Future

WEST BROMWICH 2, LUTON TOWN 0

By Chiltern

TTEAM selection by the Town for last night's League match at West Bromwich was done by easy but complicated stages. First of all during the morning the following was announced: Baynham; McNally, Hawkes (K.); McGuffie, Morton, Groves; Dunne, Turner, Pacey, Brown, Adam.

Then later on apparently McNally, Morton and Pacey were all found to be unfit which reduced the number of the regular Cup-team players on view to four, and we had the following permutation: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes (K.); McGuffie, Daniel, Groves; Hawkes (B.), Turner, Dixon, Brown, Adam.

To my recollection, Alan Daniel, the young reserve left-back has never appeared at centre-half, and when the party stopped for tea there were second thoughts on taking a gamble like that.

Result was that Groves moved into the middle with Ken Hawkes on his left and Daniel was able to make his League debut in his own position.

PATCHWORK TEAM

Other League debutant in this patchwork team was Mike Dixon and this was only Barry Hawkes's second appearance.

On the other hand, West Brom. were at full strength, except that Barlow came in at centre-half for the injured Kennedy. Teams:

WEST BROM.: Potter; Howe, Williams; Setters, Barlow, Robson; Campbell, Burnside, Allen, Kevan, Hogg.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Daniel; McGuffie, Groves, Hawkes (K); Hawkes (B), Turner, Dixon, Brown, Adam.

Referee; N. N. Hough, of Macclesfield.

In the early stages the Town's utility team shaped quite brightly and Turner was just wide. They found themselves a goal down, however, after ten minutes following an ill-judged pass by Ken Hawkes who had followed Burnside over to the left.

As a result Burnside collected the ball, swept past Baynham as he advanced and pulled the ball back for ALLEN to shoot into an empty net. Five minutes later the Town nearly got on terms when Brown beautifully sent away Barry Hawkes who slipped the ball inside.

A mistake by Barlow let through Dixon who shot past the advancing Potter, but Howe had dropped back and saved a certain goal. While the Town were playing quite neatly in approach West Bromwich looked the more dangerous, though their finishing had not a lot to recommend it.

Slowly the West Bromwich pressure increased and a shot by Howe struck Campbell and was deflected wide. This was relieved by a long run by Turner, who came along the dead-line dangerously and then pulled the ball to a defender.

THREE TERRIFIC DRIVES

After a quiet spell the game woke up when Baynham saved point-blank from Kevan and the ball was whipped away before Allen could reach it. Then Baynham had to get down in a hurry to save from Allen, and though West Bromwich were now much on top the Town defence was fighting hard.

Towards half-time the pressure increased with nearly all the play at the Town end and after three terrific drives had gone just wide, Groves managed to get in the way of one from Kevan otherwise it would have

How The Goals Came

ALLEN for West Brom in 10 minutes.

BURNSIDE for West Brom in 58 minutes.

counted as the second goal.

Half-time:

WEST BROM 1

LUTON TOWN 0

There was a good start to the second-half by the Town during which Daniel ran onto a free-kick by Ken Hawkes and from 25 yards came close to equalising. Potter, at full stretch, only just managed to save and he was lucky shortly afterwards when Turner got a foot to a through ball by Brown and sent it just past the post.

GIFT CHANCE

West Bromwich were far from having things their own way now and the Town commendably were always trying to play constructive football. After 58 minutes, however, West Bromwich increased their lead through BURNSIDE who was left with a gift chance after Daniel had stopped on the goal-line a shot from Allen.

Baynham was injured, probably through a twist or a strain, in dealing brilliantly with a difficult high cross from Howe but was quickly all right again. When the Town had their first corner of the match Turner, swinging away first time from inside the penalty area, failed to connect.

Dixon, who had been mostly held, then found an open space to make a drive that sailed just past the far post. At this stage the Town were contriving to have a good share of the play and West Brom were a trifle fortunate when Potter failed to hold cleanly a longish drive by Brown but recovered before Dixon, following up, could reach the rebound.

ALL-OUT RAID

Again Potter was in action saving a closer range effort by Brown and after this came a tremendous run and drive by Barlow that deserved a better fate than to finish just outside.

In the closing minutes the Town made an all-out raid during which Turner had a shot saved from point blank range and Potter just managed to pull down Barry Hawkes's corner.

Chiltern comments: To hold what was virtually a full-strength West Bromwich team to such a margin was a good performance by what could not be regarded as other than a scratch Town team. It was asking a lot of youngsters like Daniel, McGuffie, Barry Hawkes and Dixon to come in all at once against difficult opposition like this.

Commendably though, the Town always tried to play good football and with any luck in front of goal would have scored at least once. On the other hand Albion had chances which they did not accept and there can only be a lot of credit marks for the way in which this vastly rearranged defence played.

An outstanding performance was put up by Groves, making so far as I can recall, a first-ever appearance at centre-half and young Daniel quite impressed with his cool competency.

If this were a glimpse of the future, certainly it seems that the Town's "encourage youth policy" has not been wasted.

Attendance: 19,000.