

BINGHAM SWITCH WAS A TRUMP CARD

Brought New Power To The Town's Attack

By CHILTERN

EVERTON 2, LUTON TOWN 2

NOT for the first time, the Town gained a good result at Goodison Park, a ground on which they have always seemed very much at home.

That they took a point and came within three minutes of victory was entirely due to an improvement in the second half that could be traced directly to the switching of Billy Bingham into the middle and allowing him to rove.

This move, well tried out in practice, seemed to disconcert the Everton defence which earlier had not had much difficulty in holding the Town forwards who did not show much smoothness and understanding in the first half.

In fact, Everton had only themselves to blame that they did not hold a winning lead by the interval because they wasted several good chances by inaccurate finishing.

Harris (B) saw a shot rebound off a post and there was another let off when Hickson broke through with only Baynham to beat and the ball curled over the bar as the goalkeeper made a desperate challenge.

Though the Bingham switch brought improvement it was Everton who took the lead in 67 minutes through HICKSON who just managed to beat a tackle by Cummins.

Just two minutes and the Town were on terms again when Cummins began a movement with a pass to Bingham whose tailor-made cross was met by BROWN closing in from the right wing.

Six minutes later the move worked in reverse with BINGHAM sending away Brown and being in position for the pulled back centre which he hammered into the roof of the net left-footed.

LATE EQUALISER

In the face of desperate Everton pressure, the Town defenders hung on and it looked as if the first away League victory for nearly 12 months was to be achieved.

However, three minutes from the end, the ball was never properly cleared from a free kick just outside the penalty area and it was lifted over to HARRIS (J)

who was left with a comparatively easy chance.

The evidence of more than one match is needed before it can be safely said that Pacey is likely to be a success as Owen's successor. He did settle down after a rather uncertain start, but did not show the authority of Owen when the ball was in the air.

One move that was completely successful was that of Morton back to his old position where he played strongly both in defence and attack and Groves worked hard without being so decisive as he can be.

Both Dunne and Hawkes had their problems against two nippy wingers, but worried their way through and Baynham made some top class saves.

First half display of the forwards was very disappointing, but there was a revival when Bingham took over a roving commission and every time he had the ball, there was trouble brewing for the Everton defence.

Brown, too, settled down happily enough at outside-right after having been rather crowded out in the middle and Cummins worked tremendously hard against his former colleagues, often using the ball well, but often, too, holding on too long.

Kilgannon was very quiet indeed before the interval, but improved afterwards when he showed some cultured touches, but Gregory had not so much material as he might have done but, in any case, could not make much of Parker.

EVERTON: Dunlop; Parker, Tansey; Harris (B), Jones, Meagan; Harris (J), Thomas, Hickson, Collins, O'Hara.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes (K); Morton, Pacey, Groves; Bingham, Kilgannon, Brown, Cummins, Gregory.

Referee: L. Callaghan. Merthyr Tydfil. Attendance: 38,539.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

Most of the national newspaper critics attributed the point the Town gained at Everton to the tactical switching of Billy Bingham into the middle.

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"Go where you like—we will find you." That seemed to be the instruction Luton skipper, John Groves gave to the impish Irish International outside-right, Billy Bingham. Billy obeyed the order and seemed to move all over the field."—"Sunday Express."

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"Luton revised their methods and let Billy Bingham roam. This move paid an immediate dividend."—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"Luton well deserved to share the points, for Everton, although they had more of the play, passed and repassed to a point of sheer annoyance and often right in their own penalty area, too."—"News of the World."

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"If Luton's second-half display is going to be typical of them, their former centre-half, Sid Owen, will be staying a long time as manager."—"The People."

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"Luton are likely to have one or two forward problems before the season is out, but new manager Sid Owen can be satisfied with the form shown by his centre-half successor Pacey and the forward sparkle of Cummins and Bingham."—"Empire News."

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"Everton were also slow to see that Luton gave Bingham a roving commission—and on that hinged this result."—"News Chronicle."