

TOWN MUST HAVE SIGHED FOR A PYE

Their Former Star Saw Their Humiliation BY CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, WOLVES 5

JESSE PYE was a welcome visitor to Kenilworth-road on Saturday to see two of his former clubs in action and how Town officials must have wished they could have turned back the clock a few years so that they still had him in their line-up.

With their centre-forward problem—Dixon was the fourth to be tried in this position in 11 matches—a player of Pye's calibre to help weld things together would be a godsend, but the question is, "Where is such a jewel to be found."

From the Town point of view, this match served to prove nothing except of a negative nature, and it was quickly borne upon the fans that the forward experiments made were not going to turn out to be a success.

More than that, the ease with which Wolves collected these points, suggested pointedly that the Town have a heavy job on their shoulders to maintain their First Division position this season.

Certainly there was fight from this re-constituted forward line, but, Cummins apart, it was not allied to the craft and ball control necessary to outwit a defence of the Wolves' calibre.

In Slater and Flowers, Wolves had a dominating pair of wing-halves who just about dictated the way things should go in mid-field, and the latter gave a really remarkable display which must have been noted duly by England's team manager, Walter Winterbottom.

In the early stages it was evident that Wolves not only had the superior power and strength, but that their teamwork was way ahead of anything the Town could produce.

Yet, having weathered an early storm, the Town held their own for 32 minutes before Wolves did what seemed to be the inevitable and opened their account.

NOT TIED TO THE WING

DEELEY, who certainly was not tied to the wing by the mere fact of having number 7 on his jersey, was nicely in position at inside-left to smack home a flicked pass by Booth.

Just when it looked as if the Town would reach the interval only one goal down and with hopes for later, there came a tragic blunder which led to Wolves increasing their lead on the stroke of half-time.

Hesitation by three defenders allowed the irrepressible Deeley to nip in again, and after his shot had hit a post, MURRAY easily put in the rebound.

For the first quarter of an hour of the second half, the Town gave as good as they received without really looking potential scorers, and then Wolves turned on the heat again, with the result that they scored twice in quick succession.

In the 62nd minute, Kelly and Murray went up for a high ball which neither could reach, and

it went on to BROADBENT, standing behind them, and he made the most of the open space that had appeared so obligingly.

A minute later, DEELEY had the ball in the Town net again after Baynham had saved from Booth, and to complete the Town's discomfiture, BOOTH put in number 5 15 minutes from time.

NEITHER HERE NOR THERE

That DIXON headed his first League goal after Cummins had struck the bar nine minutes from the end, was neither here nor there, although Barry Hawkes should have had another following more bright work by Cummins.

There was no disputing the fact that there was no comparison between the merits of these two teams. Wolves had the understanding that Luton sadly lacked and, when they had a mind to, played some top-class, power football.

As has been the case in most matches this season, the Town attack was disappointing, with only Cummins looking to be in this class, and much of his work was wasted by his colleagues.

There were fatal weaknesses on the wings, where neither Barry Hawkes nor Gregory accomplished anything memorable, and the experiment of playing Pacey at inside-right was a failure because he was short of match practice after injury.

Even so, to switch him with Morton in the second half was a curious decision, because Morton had been the Town's best player, and the move had the effect of weakening the defence—unless it was a gamble on Morton being able to put the Town back into the game.

For Dixon this was a difficult home debut that exposed his footballing limitations, but at the same time he did show dash and enthusiasm, qualities that are worth encouraging.

Once again, the half-back line, while Morton was in it, was the best part of the Town set-up, and Kelly can fairly be said to have come out on top from his battle with Murray.

Groves was a hard worker, too, but Ken Hawkes could not keep tabs on Deeley, and Dunne did not get into the tackle quickly enough.

One could be sorry for Baynham, who had a most difficult task, and even his anticipation could not keep down the score.

Pye's reaction—"Luton have a struggle on their hands."

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes (K); Morton, Kelly, Groves; Hawkes (B), Pacey, Dixon, Cummins, Gregory.

WOLVES: Finlayson; Jones, Harris; Slater, Showell, Flowers; Deeley, Booth, Murray, Broadbent, Horne.

Referee: F. Collinge, Altrincham. Attendance 22,908.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Biggest problem Luton manager Syd Owen has to tackle with his struggling side is how to restore lost confidence. They played better football than Wolves for the opening 30 minutes, without having the necessary punch or poise in attack to grab a goal or two."—"Sunday Pictorial."



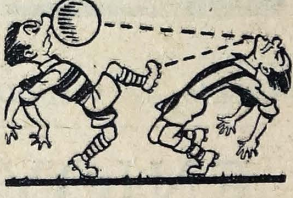
"Desperate Syd Owen's bold experiment in attack—he made four changes—ended disastrously in Luton's biggest defeat of the season, ironically before their biggest gate. And it was only by courtesy of a below-best performance by Wolves that they got off as lightly as they did."—"The People."



"Luton were unlucky to meet Wolves in this fighting mood. Two goals in the first half settled the issue, for although Luton tried a second-half forward-switch, they rarely showed signs of getting past the tall, hefty, Wolves defence."—"News of the World."



"Luton were so lacking in power, or any sense of decision, that they were blinded even by the spasmodic glimpses of the form that made Wolves such mighty champions."—"Sunday Express."



"Syd Owen has an outsize problem on his hands. In their present mood of defeatism his side is not good enough."—"Empire News."



"Hard and grimly though they fought, Luton never stood a chance. Only George Cummins showed up occasionally to be of the same footballing calibre as the master Wolves."—"Sunday Dispatch."



"Luton may not have been the most efficient sparring partners. But few teams in Britain could have withstood that second-half assault which had such contrasting effects on the managers who watched it."—"News Chronicle."



"The paucity of ideas which came from Luton's re-cast forward line was almost embarrassing. Wolves, adequate in method, punch and brains, turned a cruel spotlight on Luton's limitations."—"Daily Mail."