

FINISHING LET THE TOWN DOWN AGAIN

Their Promising Start Was Not Maintained

LUTON TOWN 1, BURNLEY 1

FOR a time, it looked as if Manager Sid Owen's latest permutation might do the trick and bring a badly needed victory, but it was not to be, despite the fact that they had the tonic effect of an early goal.

Chances there were to have made this match safe, but the finishing continued to be much below standard and, in the end, they had to be satisfied with one point.

A commentary on the forwards' finishing is that the Town's only goal came from a half-back, BROWN, who, in the eighth minute, brought the ball right through and, with the Burnley defence obligingly opening up in expectation of a pass, kept going and beat Blacklaw with a fine low drive.

Throughout the first half, Brown was in great form in his new position, and he made several openings, of which much better use should have been made.

One fell to Bingham, who shot over, but before that Burnley had reached equality, somewhat unexpectedly after 25 minutes, when POINTER, from the edge of the penalty area, beat Collier with a shot that just got in inside a post.

After that there was a deal of scrappy play, with neither forward

line showing up very well, and the Town's chances of regaining the lead took a dive when Brown collided with Kelly and was led off with a head injury.

Almost immediately he returned but was obviously suffering from concussion and moved to outside-right, with Morton dropping back to his old position.

This deprived the Town of much of the driving power there had been previously, and they seldom looked capable of scoring again. Near the end Pacey damaged his nose and spent a few minutes on the trainers' bench.

Apart from a period after they scored when Blacklaw showed a deal of uncertainty in his handling, the new-style Town forward line, although there was more directness about their work than the previous week, did not make much impression on the stalwart Burnley defence.

INSIDE-FORWARD WEAKNESSES

Chief weaknesses were at inside-forward because Turner was completely over-shadowed and Pacey looked patently unhappy at centre-forward. That left Morton as the best of the trio, and he was playing under the handicap of boils.

Young Warner received very little in the way of service and it was only to be expected that he would show inexperience after his meteoric rise from fourth team football.

Most dangerous of the forwards was Bingham, but he was closely shadowed and his finishing was not of his usual standard.

Certainly, the move of Brown into the half-back line has made a considerable difference and it looks as if he has found himself a permanent job there.

Kelly was strong and rugged, but not too certain when the ball was in the air, as it so often was, and Groves was palpably below form at left-half. He took far too long in which to make use of the ball.

For Daniel, there was a very satisfactory home League debut, especially as he was opposed to England's outside-right, Connelly, but he did a very workmanlike job of holding him and, in doing so, showed shrewd positional sense.

On the other flank, Dunne mastered Pilkington in one of his best displays of the season and Collier was an adequate deputy for Baynham.

LUTON TOWN: Collier; Dunne, Daniel; Brown, Kelly, Groves; Bingham, Morton, Pacey, Turner, Warner.

BURNLEY: Blacklaw; Angus, Elder; Seith, Miller, Adamson; Connelly, McIlroy, Pointer, White, Pilkington.

Referee: G. W. Pullin, Bristol.
Attendance: 15,638.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Inspired by the brilliance of Allan Brown, who has regained his old confidence at right-half, Luton started as if they were going to win in a big way."—"Sunday Express."



"The second half was a travesty of First Division football, and Luton were handicapped by the fact that Brown suffered from concussion and double vision after 60 minutes, and spent the rest of the match wandering in a daze at outside-right."—"News of the World."



"The three men who could have won this game for Luton but failed were inside-forwards Turner, Pacey and Morton. They were inept, slow, lacked craft, and were goal-shy. On this form, Tracey, Luton's new signing from Crook Town, should waltz into the forward line."—"Sunday Dispatch."



"One sympathises with those 15,000-odd stalwart Luton supporters who have to sit or stand through such mediocre football as this every other week."—"Sunday Pictorial."



"Smooth all-round team work by Burnley and admirable fighting spirit by desperate, much-changed Luton, produced a hard-fought and gripping match." — "The People."



"The few faithful supporters are becoming restive. Widespread theory now is that Luton do not want to spend money on new players."—"Daily Mail."



"For 15 minutes it seemed that Luton had turned the corner at last. Their re-shuffled attack had Burnley in all sorts of trouble, and a goal by Allan Brown was no more than they deserved. But after that things went wrong (as they do so often at Luton)."—"News Chronicle."