

INSIDE TRIO HAD A VERY THIN TIME

Defence Tried Hard To Bolster Up Weaknesses

By CHILTERN

MANCHESTER UNITED 4, LUTON TOWN 1

MMUCH the same old story this of the Town defence trying to bolster up a weak forward line and eventually being worn down in the closing phase of the game.

After the marked improvement of the previous week, this result came as a sharp disappointment and served to underline the fact that forward problems are far from being solved because the inside trio were much under a cloud and there was a lack of punch throughout.

Yet, so remiss were United in their finishing in the first-half when they held an undeniable advantage, that the Town might so very easily have stolen a point.

Their big chance came five minutes after half-time when fortune smiled upon them to the extent of a convenient bump on the pitch serving to cause a tame shot by Groves to kick so disconcert-

tingly that the ball struck Gregg on the forehead.

Conveniently, too, it dropped at the feet of KILGANNON who gleefully smacked it into the back of the net.

That equalised a goal headed, somewhat fortuitiously in the 22nd minute by QUIXALL who just beat Groves to a centre[^]-from Bradley and the ball shot off his head to the only untenanted part of the goal—the furthest corner.

Immediately after the equaliser, the Town had their best chance of going into the lead because Bingham streaked past Carolan to bring the ball in along the dead-line.

Presumably, he saw a gap because instead of squaring the ball for the waiting Kilgannon and Pacey, he chose to shoot with his left foot, but his angle was wrong and the ball hit the side net.

SHED CASUALNESS

After the Town's goal, United shed some of their previous casualness and began a spell of pressure during which VIOLETT put them back into the lead after 66 minutes with a terrific cross shot from the outside-right position.

After that, there was scant hope of the Town earning any reward from this encounter, especially when, six minutes later, GOODWIN put them further into arrears with a terrific drive from 30 yards for which Baynham was unsighted.

Only once after that was there cause for any anxiety by the United and that was when Gregory dropped the ball on to the bar from a free-kick for a foul on Cummins.

Then, with only three minutes to go, United rubbed it in when VIOLETT crashed the ball through after Baynham had beaten out a cracking shot from Charlton.

That they remained in the game for so long, the Town could thank some gallant defensive work and it was not until the closing stages that they really became over-run.

DUNNE OUTSTANDING

Dunne had an outstanding match against Scanlon and Daniel's display added further to his rapidly growing reputation and he got the Town out of some nasty situations with some last ditch tackling.

Apart from some doubt about the second goal, Baynham did all that was humanly possible, and he was kept pretty busy throughout. Kelly, too, was a staunch defender, but Groves and Brown were not so commanding as they have been, and Goodwin and McGuinness hold the midfield grip.

Had the Town been able to provide better service for Bingham and Gregory, they might have achieved a better result. Both looked dangerous when they were sent away, but that was all too infrequently, and, basically, the Town neglected their trump cards.

I am afraid that this match marked the end of the reign of Pacey at centre-forward because, recently, he has given no sort of hint that he can settle down there.

Well below his form of the previous week was Cummins, whose passing was all awry, and the fact that he had a thin time had much to do with the general ineptness of the inside trio, of whom Kilgannon had not a lot to show for a great deal of hard work.

MANCHESTER UNITED. — Gregg; Foulkes, Carolan; Goodwin, Cope, McGuinness; Bradley, Quixall, Viollet, Charlton, Scanlon.

LUTON TOWN — Baynham; Dunne, Daniel; Groves, Kelly, Brown; Bingham, Kilgannon, Pacey, Cummins, Gregory.

Referee.—P. G. Brandwood, Kidderminster. Attendance. — 40,572.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Wingers Billy Bingham and Tony Gregory were really dangerous. But they had no support. Then came the Goodwin masterpieces which led to Viollet's and his own goal in a six-minute period which meant curtains for Luton."—"Sunday Express."



"Luton were eclipsed. Although Kelly stuck it well at centre-half, Bingham and Gregory sadly needed help in attack."—"Empire News."



"Expected threats from Luton wingers Bingham and Gregory did not materialise, though Bingham's potential was seen after the interval when John Kilgannon smartly snapped up a chance to equalise."—"News of the World."



"This looks ominous for Luton. There's no disgrace in defeat at Old Trafford. But Luton played as if they didn't really expect to win."—"News Chronicle."



"Luton never looked First Division class. Their attack needs pepping up with a few more sprightly and dangerous as Billy Bingham."—"Daily Mail."



"Luton, who seemed to be relying on defence, rarely tested Gregg, but when they did, in the 50th minute, he experienced one of those freaks of fate that made a mockery of his clever anticipation. A shot from Groves struck a lump in the turf as he went down, hit him in the face and rebounded to the waiting Kilgannon."—"Daily Telegraph."



"A blunder by left-half Allan Brown and the restless vigour of United's attacking right-half, Freddie Goodwin, sent Luton stumbling to a defeat that never looked a certainty until well into the second half."—"Daily Express."