

GREGORY WAS TOWN'S MATCH-WINNER

Only Forward To Snap Up The Scoring Chances

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 2, EVERTON 1

TWO splendid goals by Tony Gregory were the means of the Town picking up two more-than-welcome points from Everton at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

In difficult conditions, and watched by a new low for the season gate of only 9,799, the Town made more difficulty of winning this match than was warranted, merely because they did not make the best of their scoring chances, particularly in the first half.

There were two distinct phases when they had Everton struggling, immediately after their goals came, but they failed to press home their advantage and seemed content to take a breather after having gained their successes.

The first came after 16 minutes when GREGORY closed in to meet a low centre from Bingham to beat Dunlop with a drive into the far corner of the net, and that was the only scoring of the first half, which could very well have produced a crop of goals.

One distinct let-off for the Town came halfway through when Jimmy Harris produced a cross-shot that Baynham just managed to touch on to the inside of the post, from where the ball rebounded obligingly into his arms.

Nor was Bingham's luck any better when he beat Dunlop and then shook his head disbelievingly as he watched the ball strike a post and go to safety.

CENTRES WENT TO WASTE

More should have been made by the inside-forward trio of several centres that went across the face of the Everton goal, but it seemed that they were not to pay for their remissness when GREGORY increased the lead 13 minutes after half-time, after Turner had headed on a corner from Bingham.

Jubilation of the Town was dimmed six minutes later, when JIMMY HARRIS slipped through a hesitating defence to reduce the arrears, and for a time it looked as if Everton would make a great fight for the equaliser.

Fortunately, from the Town point of view, Everton's finishing was no more deadly than their own and, despite one or two scares, the Town held safely on to their two points.

However, it is tempting the fates sorely to allow so many scoring opportunities to slip by, and it is something^a for which they have paid the penalty on several previous occasions this season.

WINGERS THE MOST DANGEROUS

Easily the most dangerous of the Town forwards were Bingham and Gregory, with the latter showing a continuance of his recent vastly-improved form, and when the right blend is achieved at inside-forward, goals should come in greater quantity.

Morton was signally unhappy at inside-left, Brown was given little scope by Labone, but should have scored at least twice, and Turner was the most impressive of the three without showing real sign of his old scoring power.

With Baynham back in goal, showing all his old skill, there

was a more confident look about the defence, especially when the ball was in the air, and Baynham came out with full marks.

There was hard and successful work, too, from Groves and Pacey, which meant a minimum of danger from the Everton inside men, and Kelly mostly had a grip on Shackleton, who has not the bull-dozing qualities of Hickson.

However, there were one or two occasions when an ominous-looking gap opened up down the middle.

Better of the full-backs was Dunne, because he got into the tackle more promptly than did Daniel, who was inclined to give Jimmy Harris too much room in which to operate, with the result that the right-winger was Everton's most dangerous forward.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Daniel; Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, Brown, Morton, Gregory.

EVERTON: Dunlop; Parker, Jones; King, Labone, Harris (B); Harris (J), Thomas, Shackleton, Collins, Laverick.

Referee: J. Bellwood, Liversedge, Yorkshire.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Had Luton not won this match it would have been a miscarriage of justice, as Everton manager Johnny Carey was quick to admit afterwards. Luton's main trouble lay in an inside-forward trio who were well below par, partly because of the absence of George Cummins, for whom the conditions were made to measure." — "Sunday Express."



"Luton should have won this match by a sound margin. That they did not do so was due to some incredibly poor finishing in front of goal, with experienced leader Allan Brown the chief offender." — "News of the World."



"Luton, playing their hearts out on a muddy pitch, went a long way to easing the dire relegation threat at Kenilworth-road. Luton's man of the match was blond-haired left-winger Tony Gregory. He came back from his Army unit to score both Luton's goals in grand fashion." — "Empire News."



"The man who came back was the hero of this much-needed Luton win. For the cheers which greeted the return of Ron Baynham to Luton's goal after a month's absence were nothing to those he deserved—and got—at the end. But when are Luton going to get the centre-forward they so desperately need to convert all those chances now going to waste?" — "The People."

"Had George Cummins, Luton's star inside-forward, not been out of the team through injury, the Town might well have run riot. His replacement Bob Morton was seldom in the game, and, with Allan Brown and Gordon Turner out of touch at inside-forward, it was left to Gregory, right-winger Billy Bingham and power-man Dave Pacey, at left-half, to provide Luton's finishing power."—"Sunday Dispatch."



"Probably the most-criticised player on Luton's books, left-winger Tony Gregory became the local favourite with two grand goals that bring Luton some relief in their struggle to keep the First Division flag flying. Luton always looked the more dangerous side, but their work in front of goal was poor."—"Daily Mail."



"Away at Villa Park on another attempt to sign a centre-forward, Luton manager Sid Owen missed seeing Luton record one of their rare victories. A victory well deserved but so nearly thrown away."—"News Chronicle."