

TEN MEN COULD NOT HOLD THE TOWN

Scored Four Goals After An Injury To Hill

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 4, FULHAM 1

AN injury to Fulham inside-right, Jimmy Hill, who was led off the field limping heavily because of damaged knee ligaments, had a far-reaching effect on the result of this match at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

The mishap happened after 16 minutes when Fulham were leading by the only goal and were looking more dangerous than the Town and, after it, they never stood a chance of remaining in the game.

That is not to say that the Town could not have recovered from their early setback had the London side been at full strength, but the weakening of the opposition certainly eased their task.

At the same time they responded to their manager's call for a supreme effort because they showed great determination and the sort of fighting spirit that could well get them out of their present trouble.

HILL put Fulham ahead in the sixth minute after Baynham had thrown himself sideways to save from Leggat, who was very dangerous in the opening stages.

Departure of Hill brought a radical change over the proceedings, with the Town taking up the running and pressing hard for long periods.

Perhaps, they were over-anxious, however, because the equaliser just would not come, despite the fact that the Fulham goal had several narrow escapes and was saved several times by the gallant work of Hewkins and Langley.

Still, it was almost inevitable that the Town would draw level and they so seven minutes from half-time.

BROWN it was who applied the finishing touch after Bingham had fastened on to a through pass by Morton and rounded Hewkins.

Probably, the Fulham players were hoping against hope that Hill would return, but were disillusioned when they came off the field for the interval because Hill was already changed.

Maybe that caused them to realise the hopelessness of their position because the Town were on top for nearly the whole of the second half.

With six minutes gone, BINGHAM was on hand to score after Hewkins had pushed a shot from Pacey on to the bar, and four minutes later TURNER drove the ball into the far corner of the net following a half-clearance by the goalkeeper from Morton.

Afterwards, much of what happened was shooting practice for the Town, who could not score again, though, until two minutes from the end, when MORTON took a pass by Pacey to register his first goal of the season.

In the end it was easy for the Town, who could conceivably have increased their goal average by a bigger margin, and would have done but for the agility of Hewkins.

A greater readiness to shoot was evident in the forward line in which Bingham was always a danger, particularly when he popped up in the middle, and there was a most satisfactory performance from Morton.

In recent matches Morton has not looked happy at inside-left, but on this evidence he is beginning to settle down there.

That Turner should continue his scoring run is a comforting thought for the future, and there was a great deal of hard work and foraging by Brown, but Gregory was something of a disappointment.

Facing a four-man forward line and a strangely subdued Haynes, Groves and Pacey were able to devote much of their attention to attack and sometimes tended to crowd their own forwards.

However, Pacey might well have had two or three goals because he made an abnormal number of shots for a wing-half.

Kelly had a comfortable enough time against Doherty, of whom little was seen, and Daniel, after looking as if he were in for a troubled afternoon against Leggat, naturally had his job made easier after Hill's injury.

Showing a continuance of his good form, Dunne had little trouble in getting to grips with Chamberlain, and Baynham had not much to do after the first quarter of an hour, when he had some awkward shots with which to cope.

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

FULHAM: Hewkins; Cohen, Langley; Mullery, Bentley, Lowe; Leggat, Hill, Doherty, Haynes, Chamberlain.

Referee: K. Dagnall, Bolton.
Attendance: 17,876.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"On this heavy going it was asking too much of the big-hearted Fulham defence to keep out even Luton in the second half. Yet all three of the second-half goals were tinged with luck." — "Sunday Dispatch."



"Throughout the second half, in which Luton goalie Ron Baynham for once had nothing to do, only outside-right Graham Leggat worried the Luton defence. There was little Leggat could do effectively on his own, even when he moved away from Luton's highly-promising left-back, Alan Daniel." — "The People."



"Let's be fair to Luton and say that they had nearly all the play in the last hour. But it must go on record that Fulham's defence was overworked. Haynes was taking little interest in the proceedings, and the slow-moving Doherty was blotted out by Kelly." — "Empire News."



"Luton came to life as Fulham died. From a timid side they became the bold fellows and had 80 per cent of the game after Hill departed. They swept down on the Fulham defence, which was hammered by the finish." — "News of the World."



"I left Luton for the first time in many months crediting them with a win they hardly deserved. But, after seeing them lose so many matches when they were obviously the better side, it would be churlish to quibble over such precious points. I give them now at least an even chance of avoiding the drop to Division II. Not that they are playing with any greater finesse or fight." — "Daily Express."



"Obeying manager Sid Owen's instructions to 'regard the match as one of extreme importance,' Luton took command. Allan Brown equalised before half-time, and Bingham, Turner and Morton goals clinched victory afterwards." — "Daily Mail."



"Desperation spoilt many chances for Luton. It took them 38 minutes to get through, and the goal count was Brown, Bingham, Turner and Morton. My shots chart tells the tale of Luton's crude, bound-to-tell pressure. They had 34 shots at goal—all of these were shots with intent, not just hopeful may-get-there efforts." — "News Chronicle."