

GLEAM OF LIGHT SHED BY McBRIDE

New Leader Made A Goal And Scored One, Too

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 2, LEICESTER CITY 0

A GLEAM of light was shed on the Kenilworth-road scene on Saturday when the Town collected two invaluable points and most of the light came from the new centre-forward capture from Wolves, Joe McBride.

Signed only 24 hours earlier, he quickly became a favourite with the crowd and his popularity knew no bounds when, eventually, he proved to be the match-winner.

On this form, the Town have made no mistake in their outlay of £12,000 because McBride brought new life and determination to the forward line and, obviously, allies craft with finishing power.

Although the Town had had the lion's share of the play, things were going none too well for them because of their failure to round off their attacks.

Several good chances were missed, mostly by Turner, who even failed from the penalty spot after 14 minutes when Chalmers had handled.

Turner shot to the left of Banks, but the ball had not the pace to beat the goalkeeper who quickly threw himself on to the ball.

Very nearly, Turner atoned with a cross shot that hit the far post with Banks beaten and had this really been his day, he would have had a crop of goals.

Not until 15 minutes from the end did the Town gain the goal they so richly deserved and then McBride made a centre that TURNER met squarely with his head and the ball was deflected into the net off Appleton.

VERY QUIET AFFAIR

That seemed to be the goal to settle this match that had been expected to produce so much tension but which, in fact, was a very quiet affair, indeed.

There was some increased activity after the goal, but Leicester's attempts to equalise were driven off comfortably enough and, in the last minute, McBRIDE completed a good day for him by heading through a centre by Cummins and finishing in the net along with the ball.

On this evidence, McBride will solve the centre-forward problem, but the manager still has to grapple with the left wing position.

Once again, he tried Cummins

there, but the Eire International gave no more promise of being the answer than he did on the previous occasion he played there.

Nor did Groves impress himself on this match and most of the shooting came from Turner who should thrive on the added support he is obviously going to receive from McBride.

FULL MARKS FOR DEFENCE

Troubled by a knee strain, Bingham was not so dangerous as usual and, in any case, was closely watched by his Irish International colleague, Cunningham.

By keeping a clean sheet, the Town defence earned full marks and, really, they found little difficulty in taming a most disappointing Leicester attack.

Leicester never seemed able to adapt themselves to the difficult conditions presented by a gluey surface and the Town nearly always held the midfield grip.

In this, Brown was outstanding because not only did he play Walsh out of the game, but he was splendid in attack, too. Pacey, too, had a successful day and Kelly did not allow much to develop down the middle.

Nor were Dunne and McNally in much trouble against two wingers who proved to be a lot less dangerous than had been expected.

LUTON TOWN. — Baynham; Dunne, McNally; Brown, Kelly, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, McBride, Groves, Cummins.

LEICESTER CITY. — Banks; Chalmers, Cunningham; McLintock, King, Appleton; McDonald, Cheesebrough, Leek, Walsh, Wills.

Referee.—J. W. Hunt, Portsmouth. Attendance.—18,691.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"A dream debut by Joe McBride, £12,000 capture from Wolves, sent Luton fans into raptures, especially after he had rounded off a spirited display, which was full of skill, with a great last-minute goal. At last it seems Luton have found a forward who will lead the attack with thrust and provide the finishing power of which they have been so sadly in need this season."—"Empire News."



"Manager Sid Owen thinks McBride can give his lads that little bit of confidence they have been lacking. In any case, Luton fought hard and more than equalled the much-talked-about Leicester side."—"The People."



"In this radiant McBride they saw what they have been seeking so long—a top-class player who might yet steer them clear of the drop into the Second Division. But at the moment the other four forwards are woefully behind McBride in ability."—"News of the World."



"Luton did the leading, driven on by the indefatigable efforts of Allan Brown, quite the outstanding player on the field, but once again their attack was lop-sided because George Cummins gave no hint that he can be converted successfully into a winger. He and John Groves, who was much too slow and deliberate, failed to combine."—"Sunday Dispatch."



"For 75 minutes the game was a bore. Then McBride made an opening for Turner, who had missed four good chances, including a 14th-minute penalty, and he accepted this one. In the last 30 seconds McBride scored the second goal from Cummins's cross."—"Daily Mail."



"Holding midfield superiority mainly through the brilliance of Brown, who has taken on a new lease of life since he moved into the half-back line, Luton pressed for long periods. Only a great display of goalkeeping by Banks, combined with some unusually remiss finishing by Turner, prevented them from gaining a runaway victory."—"Daily Telegraph."