

TOWN PLUMB THE DEPTHS

BURNLEY 3 LUTON TOWN 0

Touching absolute rock bottom, the Town went down so easily to a Burnley team that was virtually reduced to 10 men when Pointer was carried off with a knee injury three minutes before half-time.

Although he returned after a quarter of an hour of the second half, he scarcely touched the ball again, but the advantage seemed to make no difference to the Town who were completely out of their depth.

For 10 minutes or so at the start, they played like a team with the confidence of an away win behind them and might very easily have taken an early lead.

Then, unaccountably, they fell away as Burnley began to settle down and they never recovered from the shock of being a goal down after 16 minutes.

It was a goal that should never have happened because Blacklaw punted the ball well upfield after saving a tame shot by Noake, and Pacey, going in to meet it, missed it altogether.

That left POINTER with a clear run to goal and he easily beat Baynham, who made only a half-hearted sort of attempt to advance.

Before that Robson had crashed the ball against the bar and after it came an astonishing escape with the ball being kicked off the goal-line twice in a matter of seconds.

FURTHER TROUBLE

However, the Town were in further trouble in the 33rd minute when the diminutive Meredith mesmerised Hawkes, and from his centre ROBSON, moving more quickly than Pacey, put on a second goal.

Then came the injury to Pointer which seemed to give the Town some hope of reprieve, but they never tackled their task with real determination, even though the middle, which had been so wide open in the first half, was tightened by switching Brown, and there was an attempt to use Pacey as a spare man, but it failed.

Even though they were handicapped, Burnley still had more of the play, and their third goal came in the 59th minute when McILROY made Baynham go the wrong way for a penalty kick after Hawkes had been harshly penalised for fouling Meredith.

Weakness in the Town middle line was the main reason why

Burnley got so much on top in the first half, and there was never any real grip on the home inside-forward trio.

Hawkes had something of a nightmare time against the tricky Meredith which left Dunne as the most consistent member of the defence.

Even Baynham did not show his usual confidence in leaving his goal, probably because the middle was left so wide open.

Little was seen of Cummins and Noake had nothing but his fighting spirit to commend him. McBride chased every lost cause and in the early stages, Turner looked as if he might cause trouble, but he faded and Bingham was much below his usual standard. Altogether it was a depressing performance.

BURNLEY: Blacklaw; Angus, Elder; Adamson, Cummings, Miller; Meredith, McIlroy, Pointer, Robson, Pilkington.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes (K); Morton, Pacey, Brown; Bingham, Turner, McBride, Cummins, Noake.

Referee: A. Murdoch, Sheffield.
Attendance: 20,893.

Burnley v Luton Town

"This game was as easy for Burnley as a five-finger exercise is for a professional pianist. Luton were not in the good amateur class alongside the poised know-how skill of the new League-title favourites, who played with 10 men for 20 minutes."—"Sunday Express."

"Luton had a brief spell of glory in the first few minutes, when Joe McBride very nearly gate-crashed an early goal. After that they were mainly panting in defence. Hawkes had a terrible time against the fast-moving Meredith, and Pacey was usually in trouble against the fully-fit Pointer, who beat him beautifully to open the Burnley account in the 16th minute."—"News of the World."

"Luton put up a fight. But it was the wrong kind of fight. Besides losing the match, they also lost their heads. They threw their weight around, at the risk, I thought, of someone being booked as one scything tackle followed another. I expected far more intelligent Soccer from such an experienced side as Luton's. But Bingham, Turner and Cummins were especially disappointing."—"The People."