

WILL PLAY BETTER AND BE BEATEN

Town Struggled To Gain A Point From Plymouth

By CHILTERN

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 1, LUTON TOWN 1

AFTER this match, Town officials were admitting that the team had not played well, but were consoling themselves with the indisputable fact that better displays will be given away from home without any reward to be shown for them.

For proof of that, their thoughts had to go back only to the previous Wednesday when they had nothing to show for a great deal of most constructive football when the final reckoning came.

This was one of those unmemorable matches from which the chief thing from the Town point of view was the way in which they kept on fighting even in the first-half when Plymouth were much on top.

In fact, had Plymouth not been so over eager and, as a result, inaccurate in front of goal, they could have built up a comfortable lead by half-time, but they missed some excellent chances during a spell when the Town defence was having a most uncomfortable time.

Chief offender was KIRBY, who should have headed at least two goals, but failed to do so because he allowed the ball to bounce off his head, and so over the bar.

To a certain extent, he redeemed himself in the 16th minute of the second-half when he glanced downwards, a long free-kick by Fincham after Imlach had been penalised for fouling Wyatt.

The ball got in just inside the post and Baynham was caught in such a position that he made no move.

McBRIDE ATONED FOR A MISS

At that stage, the Town's hopes of avoiding defeat looked very slender indeed because they

had not really achieved the sort of incisive form in attack to suggest that they could break down what was proving to be a solid defence.

Yet, quite quickly, there came a chance for McBride, who shot over from an excellent position, but he atoned in the next minute, the 65th, with a centre from the right which BROWN, standing near the far post, nodded down over the line.

After that, there was some measure of improvement from the Town who, with the tension relieved in defence, were able to mount some more constructive movements in midfield.

However, Plymouth were often a potential danger, without really showing the ability to round off their movements and apart from one raking drive by Kirby that went just too high and a shot by Carter that was scrambled off the line, the Town were not in much danger.

COULD HAVE SNATCHED A WINNER

On the other hand, they could so very easily have snatched a winner because Imlach, bang in front of goal, tried a back-heeled flick that failed to come off. Then in the last minutes Turner was right out of luck with a shot from the edge of the penalty area which Barnsley watched helplessly miss the post by a matter of inches.

A point from this ground, on which Sheffield United had been well beaten in mid-week, was a satisfactory performance, but the display left queries about more than one position.

Brought in for his first appearance of the season, Kelly could be said to have done reasonably well in not the easiest of circumstances, but things are still being made difficult by the fact that there is no dominant header of the ball in the defence.

However, on the ground, Kelly came out creditably from his tussle with the bustling Kirby, who might have been more successful had the Town not made the change to added ruggedness in this position.

Subject of match-to-match consideration must be the left-back position because Daniel is not cutting out succeeding wingers as he should, partly because he is not marking them as closely as he should and partly because he is inclined to jockey a winger in vain because the ball comes across much too often.

PACEY WAS OUTSTANDING

Outstanding in defence was Pacey for the way in which he concentrated in putting the dangerous Carter out of the game, and the resilience of Dunne and Morton meant that not a great deal of danger came from the left.

Early on, Baynham was guilty of some mishandling, but he overcame this phase, and went on to make some gallant saves.

Forward, there is not the construction in midfield we saw on Wednesday, but they did well in the latter stages, when more than one goal might have come.

Restoration of Brown to the attack showed signs of being a success, and both he and Turner were willing workers, while McBride did reasonably well against a solid barrier provided by Fincham.

Maybe, had Bingham received

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton got perhaps a shade more than they deserved when Allan Brown headed a 66th-minute equaliser. Till then they had been outgunned and generally on the receiving end from a poor-finishing Plymouth.

"The Hatters survived by a combination of good defence and good luck, and in Terry Kelly they had a centre-half who stoutly blocked most of Plymouth's clever forays."—"The People."

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"Brown who had switched from centre-half back to his old position at inside-left, provided the punch in attack that Luton sorely needed. In the first half he was the only man to worry the Plymouth defence, and from one of his moves, when he worked his way up the field, outwitting three defenders, McBride and then Bingham each struck the upright."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"There was little doubt that Plymouth were on top in the first half, but sound tackling by full-backs Daniel and Dunne kept the Argyle forwards at bay and the Plymouth side just could not score.

"Luton certainly showed more purpose in the second half and began to take the honours.

"If Luton want to make a quick return to the First Division they will have to improve 100 per cent on this performance."—"Sunday Express"

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"Luton must have wondered how they managed to keep the score sheet blank until half-time. For at least 90 per cent of the first half they were penned into their own territory by the lively Argyle side, whose methods were to attack from all positions."—"Empire News."

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"In defence Kelly never seemed to have the measure of the elusive Kirby, while full-backs Dunne and Daniel allowed the opposing wingers far too much scope.

"Luton saved their best form for the closing stages and tried all they knew to force a winner."—"News Of The World."

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"Luton managed to leave Plymouth with a point, but at one stage it seemed they were in for a good hiding. Their defence, particularly Seamus Dunne and Alan Daniel, looked very shaky in the first-half.

"Wyatt and Fulton subdued Luton's star wingers, Billy Bingham and Stuart Imlach, and removed much of the sting from the visiting attack."—"News Chronicle."

some of the material that went the way of Imlach, the Plymouth defence would have had more trouble, because the left-winger failed when it came to using the ball accurately, whereas Bingham usually looked dangerous when in possession.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: Barnsley; Wyatt, Fulton; Williams, Fincham, Newman; Anderson, Carter, Kirby, McAnearney, Wright.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Daniel; Morton, Kelly, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, McBride, Brown, Imlach.

Referee: G. W. Pullin, Bristol. Attendance: 21,408.