

HUMBLING OF TOWN CAME AS A SHOCK

Simple Goal Sealed Easy Victory For Norwich

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 0, NORWICH 2

PROBABLY the biggest shock for the Town fans who were rather over-shadowed by the gaily bedecked, vociferous Norwich supporters, was not so much the matter of the home defeat, but the manner in which it was administered finally.

In the closing stages when, by all the rules, Norwich should have been fighting to hold off desperate raids by the Town, they were calmly holding possession of the middle of the field with short, inter-passing that smacked of the Continent.

As a result, the Town team came in for heavy criticism, was due for renovation for last night's match, and altogether had the sort of nightmare match they will want to forget quickly.

Although, throughout, Norwich gave the impression of being the faster, stronger team, they did not have things all their own way so far as the run of the play was concerned, but the breaks came their way.

Yet their luck was out when Crossan, who always had the beating of Daniel, swept through to crash the ball past Baynham and then saw it rebound into play off the inside of the far post.

However, that Crossan burst of speed was always a menace, and it was this that led to Norwich taking the lead in the 22nd minute, when he left Daniel almost standing to make a centre that Baynham in his last season's form would have cut off.

Instead, the goalkeeper merely managed to push the ball on, and after Dunne had been just that split second slow to clear, PUNTON stabbed it into the net.

Things might have changed violently but for two brilliant saves of goalworthy efforts by McBride and Turner by Kennon.

CONFIDENCE-SAPPING GOAL

Each time he seemed to be beaten, but he threw himself to his left to bring down the house with superlative efforts.

Start of the second half suggested that the Town would not be long in arrears, because Turner might have been an early scorer and Bingham missed by no more than inches.

At that stage the Town's hopes looked bright enough, but after eight minutes came the sort of incident calculated to sap the confidence of any team.

Daniel deliberately handled the ball some yards outside the penalty area, and from the free-kick McCROHAN made a high lob that, to the surprise of everybody, landed in the net.

Obviously, McCrohan had not intended to shoot at goal, but Baynham seemed to misjudge the flight completely and his late effort to punch away failed.

That was virtually the end of the Town's hopes, because although they did force some pressure and had a certain amount of bad luck, they could not get the goal that would have put them back into the game.

Gradually they drifted out of it altogether and Norwich virtually won easing up to take complete revenge for that Cup defeat of the season before last.

Primarily, Norwich won this match, and deservedly, because they had more solid defensive foundation. Whereas, harassed by the continual threat from the opposing right flank, the

Town's rearguard showed uncertainty under pressure, that of Norwich was a much more reliable combination.

The inability of Daniel to cope with the Crossan menace combined with the continued uncertainty of Baynham was too much of a handicap for the remainder and the wing-halves did not take command of the middle of the field as they can.

In that he kept Whitehouse quiet, Kelly could be said to have done his job within limitations, but there was a struggling performance from Dunne which could be said to be the symbol of the defence as a whole.

Forward, the most potential was contained in the right wing, but neither Turner nor Bingham maintained his promise of the first half.

Even so, they were better than the left-wing pairing because Imlach allowed himself to become in the grip of Thurlow. Brown was in the picture only occasionally, and McBride had very little of a positive nature to show for a lot of chasing about.

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

NORWICH CITY: Kennon; Thurlow, Ashman; McCrohan, Butler, Crowe; Crossan, Larkin, Whitehouse, Hill Punton.

Referee: E. P. Clarke, Coventry. Attendance: 22,252.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Too much of Luton's attack depends on the Bingham—McBride axis. Yet it would help if these two senior partners did not concentrate their passes so much on one another. Then the juniors—if such an experienced trio as Turner, Brown and Imlach can be so labelled—might assume their full share of goal-making and goal-taking responsibility.

"An uneventful second half subsided into the comfortable quenching of a few Luton attacks inspired by left-half Pacey and, near the end, into a rather showy Norwich exercise in unproductive passing."—"Sunday Express."

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"Look out, all Division II sides with promotion in mind. This incredible Norwich side gave due warning in this one-way cake walk that they have Division I ideas.

"They had more—they have Division I standards. In fact there were times when the astonished Luton crowd must have thought that Norwich were one of those fancy combinations from the continent.

"They gave Luton a drubbing to remember, and towards the end they underlined this lesson with a display of interpassing that brought applause from the home crowd."—"Empire News."

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"This was the day of reckoning—and how Norwich enjoyed it!

"Norwich were so vastly superior a footballing side that they were able to play out the last five minutes at an almost arrogant jog-trot."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"After McCrohan's crazy goal, Luton faded right away. They were badly served in defence. Baynham not only made his two mistakes, but also had a habit of dropping the ball.

"Forward, only Bingham and Turner looked Second Division class, Allan Brown, I regret to say, was never in the game, and it looks as though his playing days are nearly over."—"The People."

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"Cocky Norwich? Yes, you might say that. But the way they play their football, the tide of success it brings, and their colourful personality add up to entertainment.

"Luton's guileless toil could not match the composure of the Norwich defence. There was no ace plotter like Jimmy Hill in the Luton attack, no dashing striker like Errol Crossan, who was concerned in both Punton's and McCrohan's goals."—"Daily Mail."