

ATTACK WEAKNESSES TOO BIG A HANDICAP

Missed Chances Cost The Town More Cup Glory

By CHILTERN

BARNSELEY 1, LUTON TOWN 0

SO comfortable, the Town could have made their bid to gain a place in the last eight of the Cup had they accepted a couple of chances inside the first 10 minutes, which any team with hopes such as those with which they went into this match, must take.

Once those opportunities had slipped by, and nothing so easy came the Town's way afterwards, Barnsley showed the determination and fighting spirit that had enabled them to account for Huddersfield and it was not long before it became clear that the best the Town could hope for was a second chance on their own ground.

There were too many weaknesses in a badly-balanced attack for any Town supporter to become optimistic as this game unfolded, with Barnsley doing the bulk of the first-half pressure, but defeating their own ends by the monotonous way in which they tried innocuous, long-range shots when they would have been much better advised to have tried to seek closer quarters.

Even so, the Town bar was struck during periods of heavy pressure and Dunne performed one of his rescue acts by kicking the ball off the goal-line.

When the Town reached half-time with the score-sheet still blank, they must have regarded it as in the nature of a reprieve, and the Barnsley loyalists were wondering whether their team had not looked the gift horse in the face once too often.

From the way in which the Town began the second half, this looked to be a possibility, because Turner, finding one of the rare openings that came his way, blazed in from his favourite angle, and Williams found luck with him, because the ball struck him on the legs as he made his dive.

Two pin-pointed down-the-middle passes from Brown pointed the way to them, but there was never a consistent, ordered pattern of things in attack and Brown's contribution was never other than spasmodic.

WEAKNESSES ON THE WINGS

Couple that with the fact that there were fatal weaknesses on the wings, and it is fairly easy to see why this Barnsley defence, rugged in all its work, was able to keep a clean sheet.

That honour seemed to have been put beyond them when Noake scrambled the ball through, but a linesman had flagged for off-side some time previously, and the referee reversed his decision to award a goal after consultation with his official.

Best chance after that fell to Brown, who from eight yards stabbed the ball straight at Williams, and that was the Town's last opportunity of going ahead, because in the 68th minute Barnsley took the lead.

A long pass by Houghton found

LUNN in an open space and, as the winger veered for goal, Standen came racing out, never had a chance of cutting off the ball and Lunn coolly lobbed it over his head into the far corner of the net.

Forward changes which included the switching of the wingers and the introduction of Groves into the attack in place of Brown who dropped to left-half, failed to raise even reasonable hopes that the Town could save the day.

So continued the growing string of disappointing displays by the Town away from home and it was all the more important from their point of view that there were nearly 4,000 of their more avid fans there to see it.

RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT

Of the forward line, there could be hope that only Turner or Ashworth would figure as scorers, but neither received much in the way of support.

Turner found the open spaces in vain and Ashworth did a great deal of work without seeing anything very concrete in the way of an end product.

Fleming did better on the right than he had on the other flank which suggested that the switch might have been tried earlier and Brown's was a colourless display.

On a day when honours for the Town were few and far between, they had to be awarded to the half-back line for their dogged work.

Both Morton and Groves were indefatigable in their efforts and Kelly was steady and strong in the middle, so that little danger accrued from this quarter.

Unfortunately, Bramwell had his least impressive game for the Town, being worried unexpectedly by the nippiness of Smillie and although Dunne was the more successful on this occasion, he could never be said to be wholly in command of the situation.

There is no doubt that Standen was at fault when the vital goal was scored and although he pulled off the save of the match from Houghton in the first half, his method of dealing with high centres was a source of anxiety, in the main.

BARNSELEY: Williams; Swift, Brookes; Wood, Sharp, Houghton; Smillie, Bartlett, Tindill, Oliver, Lunn.

LUTON TOWN: Standen; Dunne, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Groves; Noake, Ashworth, Turner, Brown, Fleming.

Referee: R. E. Smith. Newport. Attendance: 33,565. Receipts: £6,515.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"The Second Division club's attack never got moving sweetly. Gordon Turner, up against a grand centre-half in Duncan Sharp, one of six locals in this very good Third Division Barnsley side, had the poorest support. Turner, always striving, put in two of only three shots which caused goalkeeper Terry Williams any trouble at all."—"Sunday Express."

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"Barnsley licked Luton fairly and squarely—make no mistake about it—and if they have any luck in Monday's draw they could upset the pools forecasters again.

"For this vital goal Jim Standen could be faulted for he came out too far to challenge the onrushing forward who kept his wits and lobbed the ball over Standen's head squarely into the net."—"News of the World."

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"A stranger would have thought without doubt that Luton were the Third Division side for they were rarely in the picture.

"Biggest mystery of all was why Barnsley had not a commanding lead at the interval."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"The Barnsley defence, scarcely troubled in the first half, came into its own in the second when Luton piled on the pressure.

"Luton never displayed the urgency of their opponents and their forward line, of which Turner was the best, never got moving with any real rhythm."—"The People."

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"However tragic this was for the brilliant Standen, however cheated Luton might have felt by that offside decision, this was justice for hard-tackling, fast-moving Barnsley."—"Daily Mail."