

TOWN DOWN AGAIN, BUT FOUGHT HARD

Injuries Twice Reduced Them To Ten Men

By CHILTERN

MIDDLESBROUGH 2, LUTON TOWN 1

ALTHOUGH yet another away defeat was the Town's portion at Ayresome Park on Saturday, the manner in which they went down, taking into account the handicaps under which they laboured, was more encouraging than has been the case in some of the games they have lost on tour this season.

Even when the odds were heavily against them after Gordon Turner damaged his right knee 20 minutes from time, a happening that ended his effective contribution, they had the courage to fight back and to keep themselves in the game.

After being hurt, Turner tried to carry on at outside-left but, without even having touched the ball, he decided that it was an impossible situation, and left the field with 10 minutes still to go.

Much of the drama this game produced was packed into the opening minutes of the second half, when the Town, who had turned round a goal down, reached equality in the first seconds after the interval.

LEGATE, playing in his first League game for over three years, was the scorer, when he headed the ball into the far corner of the net, after Million had only managed to push out a centre by Noake.

That equalised a goal obtained by CLOUGH in the 33rd minute after McLean had eluded a mid-field challenge by Bramwell and, after taking the ball along the dead line, laid on a perfect chance for the centre-forward.

CLOUGH it was who swung the game back in Middlesbrough's favour three minutes after that shock Town goal, and there was more than a shrewd suspicion in the minds of the Town defenders that the success should not have been allowed to count because of offside.

CLOUGH LOOKED OFFSIDE

Certainly, Clough looked to be in such a position as he gained control of a long, through pass by Stonehouse which left him with only Baynham to beat.

Although the goalkeeper raced out to challenge, and actually got a hand to the shot, he could not deflect it sufficiently to prevent the ball finishing in the corner of the net.

This was the means of effecting a considerable improvement in the forward play of Middlesbrough and, for a spell after that, the Town defence was at action stations continually.

However, they survived to get back into the game again and a chance of drawing level once more slipped by when Groves headed wide of the far post a centre by Noake.

The more frequent escapes were at the other end though, and Middlesbrough should have put themselves out of the range of the necessity for anxiety 12 minutes from the end, when they were awarded a penalty.

Not that the incident between Day and Bramwell merited such an award, because the Luton player went in for the ball, cleared it, and looked completely disconcerted when the referee pointed to the spot.

**PACEY HAD A SPELL
OFF, TOO**

However, Harris's shot went far too near to Baynham for that capable goalkeeper to be beaten and the Town breathed again with relief which was tempered shortly afterwards by the sight of Turner slowly limping off the field.

Early in the match the Town were also reduced to ten men when Pacey collided with Bramwell and went off to have three stitches inserted in a gash above his right eye.

After eight minutes, Pacey returned to continue to play strongly, as indeed did the remainder of the defence in which the comparatively inexperienced Collins did a sound job at centre-half.

Outstanding in his efforts to get his forward line on the move, Morton completed a hard-fighting middle line and both McNally and Bramwell fought manfully and with no little success against two dangerous wingers.

Sure in his handling and accurate in his judgment, Baynham had an excellent match and he was left completely high and dry when each of the goals came.

Of a forward line that played some good-looking football in midfield without achieving the necessary thrust at the end of it, Noake was the best and he established an ascendancy over

Jones, whom he beat frequently, with a good deal of ease.

Until his injury, Turner always needed careful watching and there were hard-working contributions from Ashworth, who looked as if he needed this game after his lay-off, and Groves who, however, tended to keep the ball too close.

Legate took his one chance with commendable coolness, but achieved little else of a memorable nature.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — Million; Stonehouse, Jones; Harris, McNeil, Yeoman; Day, McLean, Clough, Waldock, Holliday.

LUTON TOWN. — Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Collins, Pacey; Noake, Ashworth, Turner, Groves, Legate.

Referee. — J. Powell, Rotherham. Attendance. — 12,815.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Brilliant Ron Baynham, despite a badly injured right hand, was back to the form that once made him England's goalkeeper. But the man who really saved Luton from a football mauling was Mike Collins. The Luton centre-half was bang on the job as 34-goal Brian Clough looked like setting up another of his fantastic scoring feats." — "Sunday Express."



"Luton learned that you just can't give Brian Clough an inch. The Middlesbrough leader, after giving his team a first-half lead, won the match just two minutes after Luton deservedly drew level."

"Luton prompted by Turner and right-half Bob Morton, fought back well and gave Middlesbrough one or two frights." — "The People."



"Turner was the pick of their attack, which moved well in approach work but lacked finishing power." — "Sunday Dispatch."