

Turner's 200th—And Town Shatter Middlesbro'

By Chiltern

MIDDLESBOROUGH 2, LUTON TOWN 4

LUTON TOWN swept back to the winning path at Middlesbrough last night and brought to an end a run of three consecutive League defeats by scoring their second away victory of the season.

The points were secured after a game in which fortunes swung first one way and then the other.

Had the Town not won, they could have pinned the blame on three missed chances early in the match, two of them before Middlesbrough took the lead for the first time.

The Town's football was always superior, and they showed plenty of fighting spirit in hitting back after the interval to rub out their arrears and earn a two-goal lead.

THE LESSON HAS BEEN LEARNED

Obviously, the Town had learned the lesson of last Saturday, because they made far better use of the ball, some of their mid-field play being first-class.

The one query early on was about the quality of their finishing, but who can complain about a team that scores four goals away from home?

There was a considerable tightening in the defence after the interval and Baynham had had a comparatively quiet time.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Appleby; Jones, McNeil; Yeoman, Thomson, Horner; Burbeck, McLean, Peacock, Kaye, Holliday.

LUTON: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Cope, Groves; Walden, Ashworth, Turner, McKechnie, Fleming.

Referee: J. Rowell, of Rotherham.

There was a sensational start, because the Town missed two scoring chances before the game was six minutes old, and in the next minute found themselves a goal down through PEACOCK.

The centre-forward chased a down-the-middle pass from Yeoman, brushed off a challenge by Cope, and easily beat Baynham from close in.

The Town appeared to be looking for an offside decision which did not come, and the referee, right in line with the play, had no hesitation in pointing to the centre. This was after seven minutes.

First missed opportunity by the Town was by Walden, who was left with only Appleby to beat after a mistake by Thomson. The right-winger took the ball on to look a certain scorer, but then drove straight at the goalkeeper, who thankfully scrambled it away.

It was a remarkable miss and a remarkable escape for Middlesbrough, who were in luck's way again shortly afterwards when Ashworth caught their defence on the wrong foot with a low, crisp centre on to which Fleming closed.

The Scot made his shot quickly, but this time Appleby saved by dint of sticking out a foot. All the same, this was a chance that should have been accepted.

Middlesbrough's goal came in what was literally their first serious attack and was a severe jolt to the Town, who had been promising to settle down.

TOWN FIGHT BACK

However, the Town fought back, and McKechnie brought Appleby into action from the edge of the penalty area.

For a time it was stalemate, with neither team being able to make real progress until Burbeck got clear of Bramwell and whipped the ball across. Baynham pushed away the high centre, and McNally completed the clearance.

Again the Town had a fine chance to score, and this time it was Ashworth who missed it when Walden made a through pass which left the inside-right with only Appleby to beat.

Again we looked for a goal, and there should have been one, but Ashworth's shot was too close to the goalkeeper, who smothered it.

Generally, the Town were playing the better football in approach, but their finishing was letting them down.

However, with 19 minutes gone, they scored, and thoroughly deserved to do so on the run of the play.

A pass from the wing by Fleming left TURNER with a chance to bore in on goal from the sort of angle from which he rarely misses.

Surely he came in goalwards, drew Appleby and carefully placed the ball in the far corner of the net for his 199th goal in League football.

MIDDLESBROUGH AHEAD AGAIN

Much of the Town's football was crisp and accurate, and they were moving the ball about snappily in midfield.

Brilliant work by Turner out on the right wing again had the Middlesbrough defence in trouble, but Appleby came out in the nick of time to prevent Ashworth from reaching the ball as it was pushed through.

However, Middlesbrough, who had not looked very dangerous,

How The Goals Came

PEACOCK for Middlesbrough after 7 minutes.

TURNER for Luton after 19 minutes.

KAYE for Middlesbrough after 25 minutes.

McKECHNIE for Luton after 49 minutes.

TURNER (penalty) for Luton after 61 minutes.

McKECHNIE for Luton after 78 minutes.

suddenly broke away to regain the lead after 25 minutes.

KAYE was the scorer after Burbeck had disarrayed the Town defence with a diagonal run from the wing.

McKechnie, back in defence, put a foot to the ball in an attempt to stop the winger, but sent it into his own penalty area, where Kaye evaded a tackle by Morton and went on to beat Baynham with some ease.

There was still plenty of confidence in the Town's approach, but the best shot for some time came from Horner, who forced Baynham to go down in a hurry to keep out his effort from nearly 25 yards.

TOWN UNDER PRESSURE

Towards half-time Middlesbrough began to threaten to take a grip, and the Town were forced to defend more persistently than at any previous stage.

Three corners in quick succession were conceded, and for a few minutes the situation looked fraught with danger.

Peacock had a shot headed out by Cope, and it was some time before the Town could launch an attack.

However, the phase passed, and the Town had a turn without being able to test Appleby.

Further Middlesbrough pressure was driven off with some difficulty, and the Town appeared now to have lost much of their earlier poise.

Then, with only seconds remaining until half-time, a fine Town movement enabled Fleming to break through, but he was stopped at the expense of a corner, from which Walden shot into Appleby's hands. Half-time:

MIDDLESBROUGH 2

LUTON TOWN 1

Four minutes after the restart Town equalised through McKECHNIE.

Switching out to the right wing Fleming beat McNeil before pulling the ball back to McKechnie. The inside-left did not hit his first-time shot properly, but it was effective, because it went well out of Appleby's reach.

However, Middlesbrough often looked dangerous, and Peacock missed the far post by inches.

TURNER'S 200th LEAGUE GOAL

After 61 minutes, McNeil brought down Fleming from behind as he cut in for goal from the right wing, and the referee promptly awarded a penalty.

TURNER took it not too convincingly, because Appleby reached the ball as he threw himself to his left, but it spun behind him into the net.

That counted as Turner's 200th goal in League football.

TOWN INCREASE THEIR LEAD

Surviving a Middlesbrough onslaught, Town increased their lead after 78 minutes. Turner centred from the right and McKECHNIE raced through a hesitant defence to glide the ball in with his head.

Peacock missed a great opportunity for Middlesbrough by pulling the ball wide from almost point-blank range with Baynham hopelessly situated.

Then Burbeck pulled the ball wide from only a few yards out. Result:

MIDDLESBROUGH .. 2

LUTON 4

Attendance: 15,653.