

TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF GORDON TURNER

Scored Two And Made One Of Town's Five Goals

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 5, SWANSEA TOWN 1

RETURN of Gordon Turner to League football after cartilage trouble may not have been the fastest on record, but I would gamble that it was the most effective.

In the position in which Manager Sam Bartram found himself through injuries and illness which caused him to change the team even after he had chosen it on Friday morning, the fact that Turner was ready and willing to go in, although he had not figured in a competitive game for eight weeks, must have seemed like a live-saver.

More than that, from the first minute when he had the ball in the back of the net from a low centre by Walden, TURNER made it clear that this was not to be merely a token appearance.

Although there were times in the first half when he looked short of match practice, he never shirked a tackle, and well before half-time, it was obvious that there was nothing to fear from the knee that caused so much trouble, and probably cost the Town a number of vital points.

And the longer the game went on, the better Turner looked, until he was troubled by cramp in the closing stages, which caused trainer Frank King to hover anxiously just outside the touch-line more than once.

At first, it seemed possible that the boost given the team by that sensational Turner goal would be wasted, because Swansea hit back in fortunate circumstances, when an ill-placed centre by Williams (H.) struck McNALLY on the leg and rebounded into the net for the equaliser.

For a time, the Town had to struggle, but PACEY put them back on the right road with a wonderful goal six minutes from half-time.

Having joined the attack, McNally gained possession just outside the penalty area, before pulling the ball square to Pacey, who wasted no time in getting it under control, but simply hit it from 25 yards, and Dwyer knew nothing about it until he picked it out of the back of the net.

Apart from some early activity in the second half by the Swansea forwards which did not amount to a great deal, the Town never looked back after that.

MADE ONE AND SCORED ONE

With 62 minutes gone, Turner, who was showing a predilection to rid himself of the attentions of Nurse by the way in which he moved about, suddenly made a perfectly-judged lob on to which FLEMING had time to move, and was there fractionally before Dwyer, to nod the ball into the far corner of the net.

Four minutes later, TURNER was left with a clear shot at goal from his favourite angle, when the ball ran loose to him, and there was another back-aching job of ball-retrieving for Dwyer to do.

With a minute to go, the Town's score went to the highest they have secured this season when LOWNDS fastened on to a pass by Fleming, who had made a clever dribble, and crashed the ball into the roof of the net.

No doubt of it, it was a

wonderful return for Turner, who showed only too plainly how much the Town's attack has been lacking in real experience these last weeks.

Although he was only too obviously a wing-half playing out of position, no-one could fault Lownds on the score of all-out endeavour and, occasionally, he did manage to use the ball with a good deal of effectiveness.

INJURIES TAKE THEIR TOLL

Once again, McKechnie, who made a bright start, came in for more than his share of rough usage which left him with a nasty abrasion on the side of a shin and the punishment he has taken has left its mark on this highly promising player.

On balance, the finishing of Walden was rather disappointing but Fleming became more accurate after an undistinguished first half.

There was a great deal of strength down the Town's left defensive flank where the indefatigable Pacey was always prominent and Bramwell looked more assured and confident.

But give marks, too, to Kelly for a plucky display in the face of a severe blow on the left cheek-bone, which must have been a considerable handicap to him.

However, he mastered Donnelly without much trouble and McGuffie, making his first appearance of the season in the first team in a wing-half position, gave quite a useful display.

Despite being the unwitting cause of the only Swansea goal, McNally made a sound contribution and Baynham showed a continuance of his recent good form and was always full of confidence.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; McGuffie, Kelly, Pacey; Walden, McKechnie, Turner, Lownds, Fleming.

SWANSEA TOWN: Dwyer; Sanders, Griffiths; Johnson, Nurse, Davies (P.); Davies (R.), Williams (H.), Donnelly, Webster, Williams (G.).

Referee: J. Powell, Rotherham, Attendance: 8,107.