

Town Keep Newcastle Golden Boys At Bay

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TURNER'S WINNING GOAL IN GAME OF MISSED CHANCES

(By Chiltern)

LUTON TOWN 1, NEWCASTLE UTD. 0

ON a blustery afternoon the attendance at Kenilworth-road for the visit of Newcastle looked even thinner than it has been for three months, and it seemed that even the attraction of Newcastle, with their highly-priced forward stars, had failed to stir the Town's supporters.

It was not surprising perhaps in view of the Town's crushing 6-1 home defeat last Saturday.

What was surprising was that manager Sam Bartram decided to give the defence in its entirety another chance, which, perhaps, would not have been the case had Bob Morton been regarded as 100 per cent fit.

Instead, the expected changes took place in the forward line, which was completely altered.

There were switches of position for Turner, McKechnie and Walden. And Fleming, brought in to the exclusion of Legate, was in the unusual position of outside-right, though he has appeared here with success in the past.

With Alec Ashworth unfit, there was a second chance in the League side for Mark Lownds, who was last in the team when the Town beat Swansea 5-1.

Newcastle, after their victory over Southampton last week, brought back only one of their four 'flu victims. He was Thompson, who took over at centre-half from McGrath.

The pitch had dried up considerably in the face of the strong winds and was on the firm side.

BLUSHING MOMENT

Cope lost the toss so that Newcastle had the advantage of a strong end-to-end wind, and when the Town kicked off it was noticeable that Turner started the game from the centre-forward position, although he was wearing a No. 8 shirt.

First incident of note came when Walden split his shorts almost to the waist in a tussle with McKinney and had to go off for a new pair.

First threat was made by Newcastle, and with the Town defence looking jittery Kerray fired a yard wide.

There was no doubt about it, McKechnie was playing an orthodox centre-forward role, and it was Gordon Turner who was lying deep.

Once or twice the Town forwards moved in promising style without worrying Hollins, but Newcastle were looking the more dangerous and it took a last-ditch tackle by Cope to stop Thomas.

A quick shot by Thomas soon afterwards did not trouble Baynham, and he easily picked up a

the Newcastle defence, and after McKechnie had had a shot beaten down, Turner missed a chance from a centre by Fleming.

TOWN SHOW IMPROVEMENT

The Town were showing a marked improvement now, but half-chances were going astray though the Newcastle defence was looking anything but happy under pressure.

Walden just failed to get his foot squarely behind the ball, and then Turner headed inches too high from a cross by Fleming.

Determination by McKechnie nearly led to the Town going ahead, because he hung on in the face of several tackles to get in a low shot that Hollins saved at full-length, one-handed.

Quite suddenly, the character of the game had changed, with the Town now on top and Newcastle looking flustered in the face of their enthusiastic raids.

A little bit of "niggle" was noticeable at times as when Suddick and Walden got at cross-purposes and it was at the Newcastle player that the referee waved an admonishing finger.

HEADED OFF GOAL-LINE

Definitely the Town were the more dangerous now, and after Walden had had a drive deflected for a corner, McKinney, standing on the goal-line, headed out a shot from Fleming with Hollins nowhere near the ball.

Good work by Kerray in midfield, when he robbed Lownds, brought Newcastle their first chance for some time. It fell to Neale, just inside the penalty area, but Baynham pulled his shot out of the air quite comfortably.

In quick succession, the ball crossed and re-crossed the Newcastle goal, first from Bramwell and then from Fleming and then, with Bramwell staying up in the attack, there was another tussle in front of goal before McMichael cleared.

After a quiet sort of period, Newcastle came back to gain a corner which Baynham pulled down brilliantly, and Fleming, collecting the ball, was pulled down by McMichael who earned a word from the referee.

A corner followed the free kick due to the tenacity of McKechnie, but this brought nothing although it served to keep the Town on the attack for a while.

NEAR THING FOR TOWN

A foul in midfield by Groves nearly led to the downfall of the Town goal because Bell placed the free-kick well inside the penalty area and with Thomas lying loose it must have been a goal if his header had been a little nearer the target, for Baynham was hopelessly placed.

One or two promising Town attacks broke down because of the old failing, inaccuracy in passing. For instance, when Lownds tried to make an opening for Turner, he planted the ball straight at the feet of Thompson.

On the stroke of half-time the Town nearly snatched the lead when a shot by McKechnie was deflected just the wrong side of the post by Neale. Half-time:

LUTON 0
NEWCASTLE 0

In the first seconds of the second half, Cope was knocked out in heading away a strong drive by Thomas, but recovered quickly in time to deal with another Newcastle raid, this time through a long, high pass by Neale. Eventually Bell shot wide.

So far the game had not been distinguished by the accuracy of the finishing.

NEWCASTLE TOO ELABORATE

It looked as if the Town were not going to enjoy the benefit of



the strong wind that Newcastle had had in the first half. By the look of the flags it had died down quite a bit, or at least was more fitful than it had been.

Too much elaboration in front of goal spoilt a chance for Newcastle after Suddick had come right across the field, and when a shot was eventually produced, Kerray sent the ball very wide.

With the Town improving again, Hollins saved Newcastle by



throwing himself almost at the feet of Turner to grab a low ball from Walden and so save an almost certain goal.

Certainly the best chance that had fallen to either side went to Tuohy who, from less than five yards, sent the ball over the top with the net yawning in front of him after Allchurch had crossed it low with the Town defence all over the place.

This was just one more case of the lack of stability in front of goal of both teams. Lownds very nearly found Turner in an open space so that Newcastle had to concede a corner. Pacey had a first-time attempt and though hitting the ball hard enough, was off the target.

Then Newcastle were in luck's way following a run by McKechnie. He pulled the ball across and Turner nearly netted, but the ball rebounded off the feet of Thompson and straight to Bell, who cleared.

An attempt to do too much by Pacey brought Newcastle another chance, but Tuohy headed straight to Baynham, who gratefully picked the ball up.

Thomas headed just wide from a centre by Suddick and then Fleming, getting the better of McMichael, shot rather too hurriedly and the ball whipped wide of the far post.

TURNER PUTS TOWN AHEAD

End-to-end play was more or less the rule now, and Tuohy

sought to make amends for previous failures with an oblique shot that was a foot away from the far post.

With the pattern of play continuing, Hollins made rather hard work of pushing a long range shot by Groves for a corner, and there was a desperate scuffle in front of the Newcastle's goal from Walden's kick.

Eventually the ball was booted into touch.

Next, Newcastle made ground with a long run by Tuohy who was finally checked by Lownds overtaking him and tackling successfully.

When Fleming suddenly appeared on the left wing, he was stopped only by a handling offence, and at the end of it all, flashed a strong drive only just wide of the post.

Then, in the 66th minute, the Town took the lead through TURNER. He collected in his stride a short pass by McKechnie which left him with a clear run



GORDON TURNER
Scored Town's winning goal in 66th minute.

for goal, and taking his time and steadying himself, he smacked the ball into the back of the net as Hollins came out desperately.

Showing more confidence after this the Town put on pressure and when Lownds gained a lucky rebound, McKechnie pushed the ball out to Walden, who finished badly, placing it straight to the feet of Thompson.

FORWARD SHUFFLE

Tuohy was badly shaken up after a hard tackle by McNally and while he was recovering,

How The Goal Came

TURNER for Luton after 66 minutes.

orders went out from the touch-line for the Town's wingers to switch and also for Turner and McKechnie to change places.

At that stage, there were about 17 minutes to go. Newcastle fought back, but there was still little bite in their finishing, and all that occurred was a centre by Suddick that went soaring over the bar.

Then came a great let-off for the Town when Thomas nipped in to meet a centre from Suddick squarely with his head. With Baynham out of his goal trying vainly to cut off the cross, the ball thudded against a post and came back into play.

Thomas looked disgusted, as well he might.

The crop of minor injuries went on. Turner had a heavy fall, and needed massage to his right thigh.

LATE BID FOR EQUALISER

A late bid for an equaliser was coming from Newcastle, who were having a lot of the play, though still without showing real thrust in their finishing.

Kerray sent the ball too high from the edge of the penalty area, and the Town were rather handicapped now because Turner was limping heavily and was out in the outside-left position, with Fleming inside.

However, the Town came again, and Hollins, challenged by Lownds, pulled down from under the bar a tricky sort of centre by McKechnie.

Then it was Baynham's turn to be in action. He stopped at the near post a hard centre by Suddick, but he could not avoid con-



ceding a corner, from which McKinney, right up in the Town penalty area, sent the ball wide.

McNally cleared in cool fashion when Tuohy threatened, and then Baynham came right out of his goal to catch a high lob into the penalty area.

Without a great deal of trouble, the Town were staving-off Newcastle's desperate attempts for an equaliser, and to a large extent fell back on to the defensive.

Fleming was woefully wide with a first-time shot after Walden had made ground, but at least the Town had regained some initiative.

But not for long, because Newcastle had another slice of bad luck when Tuohy, after dribbling around Cope, shot against a post and again the ball went to safety. Result:

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NEWCASTLE 0