

# ANOTHER DEPRESSING SHOW BY TOWN

## JUST AS WELL EARLY POINTS WERE WON

## Turner's Injury Did Not Help A Poor Attack

By CHILTERN

FOR the peace of mind of Town officials regarding the future League status of the club, it is just as well that the team picked up sufficient points in the earlier part of the season to insure them against the risk of relegation.

Not that, if the present loss of form and meagre collection of points continues, the Town might not be presented with something about which to worry before the end of the season.

TO measure the way in which the team has gone to pieces since the early part of December, one has only to consider the League results over the period.

As a result of which, we find that the last 13 matches have yielded them only ten points and

during that time, only 14 goals have been scored, five of them in one match against Swansea.

From the last seven matches, they have gained only four points and their output of goals has been a meagre six, while 16 have been conceded.

All of which makes depressing reading and explains fully why Manager Sam Bartram made a 500 miles trip by road in rather less than 24 hours in an attempt to sign a forward.

### Fell Easy Victims To Strong Defence

ON the evidence of what we saw against Norwich on Saturday, more than one newcomer is needed to build up a front line that can be relied upon to get goals with a reasonable amount of consistency because, until the last five minutes or so, a goal to the Town looked just about the most unlikely event in the world.

With a complete lack of finish on the wings and little cohesion or sign of an ordered plan at inside-forward, the Town fell easy victims to a defence which gained a solid grip early on and never relaxed it.

### Ashworth Should Have Got Equaliser

EVEN so, though they deserved their win, Norwich were lucky to get away with it in the finish because a goal by McKechnie two minutes from the end gave the Town fresh hope and they should have equalised.

McKechnie rammed the ball into the back of the net when Walden, for once in a while, managed to cross the ball in front of goal and, with the referee looking at his watch and the last seconds ticking away, Ashworth missed a great chance of salvaging a point.

A deft pass by Turner left him unmarked about ten yards from goal, although he would perhaps have been wiser to have left the

## Streten Plays Tomorrow

Former Town goalkeeper, Bernard Streten, will play for the Internationals Club XI against the Town in the testimonial match at Kenilworth-road tomorrow night for Leslie Spencer and David Brogan.

Unfortunately, an injury which prevented him playing for Stoke on Saturday keeps Stanley Matthews out of the team, which will be chosen from the following: Streten; Scott, Barnes; Docherty, Froggatt, Burgess; Bentley, Duquemin, Jezzard, Stevens (ex-Fulham), Pye, Shanks, Milburn.

ball to McKechnie, who was running on to it.

### Allowance Has To Be Made For Injury

INSTEAD, Ashworth stabbed away at it too hurriedly and the ball went the wrong side of the post, taking with it the last vestige of Luton's hopes.

Some allowance has to be made for the fact that Turner badly damaged his nose 10 minutes from half-time from a blow by Burton's elbow and had two stitches inserted in a gash.

Told by the manager not to do anything silly, Turner returned for the second half at outside-left, with his efficiency obviously lowered by the painful injury, but he did switch back to the middle halfway through in an attempt to spark off a rally.

### McKechnie Kept On Challenging

ALTHOUGH he is not in his old scoring form at the moment and seldom looked really dangerous, he was the only member of the forward line

attempting to hold the ball and to be constructive.

Possibly though, the burden of responsibility he has had for so long in this poor front line is beginning to weigh heavily on him.

There was a very minor contribution from Ashworth, who covered a lot of ground without achieving a great deal that was useful, but one could admire McKechnie for the way in which he took a buffeting and kept challenging down the middle.

### Walden's Failure To Use The Ball

AS a whole, though, the inside-forward play showed little or no pattern, and the serious shortcomings on the extreme wings did not help either.

To say the least, Walden was aggravating in the extreme because he so obviously had the beating of Ashman and yet failed utterly to make use of it.

Time and time again he used the ball badly and, in addition, tended to hang on and be caught in possession.

As for Jardine, he produced little evidence to suggest that he is any improvement on the long line of players who have been tried in the problem outside-left position.

### Should Pacey Be Put In Attack Again?

WHILE there can be sympathy for the defence because of the number of times the ball comes straight back at them, the Town cannot be completely happy about it.

For one thing, Cope was distinctly ill at ease against Allcock, who, from Waites and Hill, received much better support than that which came the way of Turner.

Cope never seemed to be in command of the situation and this necessitated some covering by Pacey.

Yet, the left-half found time to try to drive on the attack and looked as likely as anyone to score.

Although the move has not been a complete success in the past, I wonder whether it would

## 'PICTORIAL' WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

### FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN ..... 1

McKechnie

NORWICH CITY ..... 2

Waites, Allcock

LUTON TOWN: Baynham;

McNally, Bramwell; Morton,

Cope, Pacey; Walden, Ash-

worth, Turner, McKechnie,

Jardine.

NORWICH CITY: Ken-

non; Thurlow, Ashman; Bur-

ton, Butler, Mullett; Savino,

Waites, Allcock, Hill, Lyth-

goe.

Referee: L. Callaghan,

Merthyr. Attendance: 9,736.

not be wise, in the present difficult circumstances, to use the dash and punch of Pacey in the front line.

### Experiments Due Tomorrow Night

OTHER than that, it is difficult to see what can be done to bring about an improvement.

Changes, obviously, there will be for what is bound to turn out to be a desperate battle at Elland-road, Leeds, on Saturday.

After the match with Norwich, the Town manager commented grimly, "Now youth must have its chance. They cannot do any worse."

On just what pattern his mind is running, is impossible to say at the moment, but there may be a hint when the team to play in the testimonial match tomorrow night is announced.

This could be the ideal vehicle for experiments to be made and for youngsters to be blooded.

### McNally As Consistent As Anyone

THERE was no more than an average display from Morton, who could not be said to have taken a complete grip on Hill, and I thought that McNally was as consistent a defender as the Town had.

At least, he had a lot less trouble with Lythgoe than did Bramwell with Savino and the left-back is going through a rather sticky period in which his judgment is also at fault.

While Baynham could not be blamed for either of the goals, his handling of the ball was a bit sketchy to say the least, at times, and he was fortunate that he did not have to pay the full penalty for a couple of mistakes.

### Norwich Were More Potent In Attack

CHIEFLY because of the scheming of Waites, Norwich always looked the more potent in attack and it was Waites who took advantage of the tell-tale gap down the Town middle to put them ahead after 23 minutes.

Narrow though the lead was, it did not appear to be in any particular danger, something that was emphasised when Turner was carried off on a stretcher.

It was eight minutes after half-time that the second goal came when Allcock, completely unmarked, bent low to head through an attempted shot by Burton, who also laid on the pass for the first goal.