

# STRIKING POWER IS STILL BIG NEED

## Newcastle Carried The Punch Up In Front

By CHILTERN

NEWCASTLE UNITED 3, LUTON TOWN 1

UNTIL the Town can find some striking power in attack, they will not halt their slide towards the Third Division.

That much was evident in the first half an hour at St. James's Park on Saturday when they should have proved to themselves that no amount of clever work in midfield pays off if it is not allied to quickness and decision in finishing.

In the early stages, they moved the ball about with precision, making good use of the long pass, but it was mostly across the field that their work was directed and the thrust in front of goal was missing.

By contrast, the Newcastle inside men did their best to ram home their attacks speedily, and although they missed several likely scoring chances, they at least had three goals to show for their efforts at the end.

In Walden, the Town could have had a match-winner had there been better support for him, because he gave the Irish International, Keith, a rare chasing, and although he did not always finish accurately, he did provide some most serviceable material.

It was not until the 33rd minute that disaster struck the Town, when Bramwell, bent on attack, took the ball well into the Newcastle half before giving a short pass to McGuffie, who was half covered.

At all events, McGuffie could not gather it, with the result that Hilley set off on a long run, which he ended by pushing the ball through to FELL, who, from just outside the penalty area and in the inside-left position, beat the diving Baynham with a powerful drive.

From then on, Newcastle looked a more dangerous proposition, and the Town had some narrow escapes, particularly from Thomas, whose finishing was haphazard.

However, THOMAS showed the value of liveliness and dash by scoring twice early in the second half. In the 51st minute, his head beat the attempts of both Baynham and Bramwell to clear, after Clish had centred, and five minutes later, had the ball in the net again after a bewildering passing movement with Neale.

### McGUFFIE REPLIED

At that point the Town looked to be in for a hammering, but some of the Newcastle confidence went in the 65th minute, when McGUFFIE picked up a pass by Walden and hammered the ball through from the edge of the penalty area.

Before the goal was allowed, the referee went over to consult a linesman, who had been signalling.

However, Newcastle hit back again, causing some desperate work and mistakes by the Town defence, but the goal survived.

Driven on by Morton, the Town tried to stage a late rally,

but they had not sufficient thrust to break down the United defence and their best effort was delayed until the last minute when Hollins saved well from Turner.

Obviously, the Town's problems are far from solved, with Fairchild not finding sufficient scope to clinch his first team place and, too often, he seemed to be content to put down his head and run.

### DAVIES DISAPPOINTING

After his promising home debut, Davies was much of a disappointment because he made little impression and he has not yet borne out his reputation as a striker.

Nor was McGuffie consistent while, Turner, prone to run into trouble, was dangerous only on rare occasions.

At times, Morton and Groves found themselves almost over-run and a tremendous responsibility devolved on the hard-fighting Pacey who often found himself with more than one opponent to face.

Bramwell showed improvement at the start, but was struggling for most of the second half, while things operated the other way with McNally who had a deal of difficulty with Fell in the opening phase, but was more rugged afterwards.

This was a difficult match for Baynham in so much that so many centres from the wings were awkwardly made from his point of view, but there was not much he could do about the three goals debited against him.

**NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Hollins; Keith, Clish; Neale, Thompson, Iley; Day, Hilley, Thomas, Suddick, Fell.

**LUTON TOWN:** Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Pacey, Groves; Fairchild, Davies, Turner, McGuffie, Walden.

Referee: J. Parkinson, Blackburn.

Attendance: 27,280.