

TOWN HINT — THEY CAN CLIMB TABLE

But They Must Guard Against Late Fade-Out

By CHILTERN

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

LUTON TOWN 2, BURY 1

ON the score of the vast difference between the positions of these two teams in the League table, this was an impressive performance by the Town which suggests that they can extricate themselves from their present dangerous position.

What took a little of the gilt off the ginger-bread was something of a fade-out again in the second half which, perhaps, was more due to their determination to hold on to what they had gained than anything else.

When a team has been having the disappointing sort of run the Town have had this season, the temptation to fall back on defence once they have built up a lead is always there, and, to a certain extent, they yielded to it.

In effect, they lost the initiative in midfield, with the result that the Bury wing-halves took command to a marked extent and, in particular, Turner (B) found gaping holes in the Town defence.

This business of opposing right-halves taking the game by the scruff of the neck in the later stages is something that must be causing deep thought on the part of the manager.

It happened to a marked extent at Norwich when Burton ran riot and to a lesser degree at Plymouth when Williams was the driving force behind the Argyle attack.

Something must be done to close the gap that is appearing in this area, but I feel that the Town have made the right move in re-introducing Cope to centre-half, because there was a more solid look about the defence inside the penalty area.

Undoubtedly, the main weakness continues at inside-left, because McGuffie fills the bill only when the Town are on top and he has time in which to spray his passes. When the heat is on from the opposition, it is another matter.

Yet, in the first half, as they

did at Plymouth, the Town looked a team capable of occupying a much higher position in the League table than they hold at the moment.

Their forwards, ably led by Davies, who continues to earn golden opinions, harassed the best defence—on paper—in the Second Division.

Speedy wing play by Walden and Jardine, though the latter was most inconsistent, kept Bury on the hop and it was a lobbed pass by the former that brought the Town their first goal after 14 minutes.

With a delicate flick of his head, DAVIES steered the ball well wide of Harker for his seventh goal in five matches since he switched to centre-forward.

When, 20 minutes later, GORDON TURNER came through with complete certainty on to a pass that started with a long clearance kick by Baynham to make it 2-0, the Town's hopes were rosy indeed.

COULD HAVE HAD BIGGER LEAD

Maybe, with a little more steadiness in front of goal, their lead would have been greater and, probably, it would have been better had they continued in attacking vein.

But, human nature being what it is, they did not, preferring to try to play safe, as a result of which Bury came firmly into the game and their goal 14 minutes from the end was an ominous stroke for the Town.

It began when Brian Turner came striding through before letting go a drive that Baynham could not hold and CALDER was on hand to apply the finishing touch.

This could have been the signal for a tremendous Bury rally but, in point of fact, it was the Town, who marshalled their forces again, who looked the more dangerous.

Twice, first-time drives by Davies flew straight at Harker when they could quite easily have finished in the back of the net had his luck really been in.

Certainly, there was some threat from Bury but, mainly, it was contained, as it had been for most of the match by a hard-fighting defence.

Both Morton and Pacey did well without really being dominant. Bramwell was showing a marked improvement until Brian Turner began to break through and McNally finished a little on top from his tussle with Bartley.

Baynham after a dramatic dash down the M.1, which brought him to the ground only 20 minutes before kick-off time, showed his usual intelligent brand of anticipation, but there was suspicion about the goal that Bury scored—that he should have held on to the first shot.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Cope, Pacey; Walden, Turner (G), Davies, McGuffie, Jardine,

BURY: Harker; Robertson, Eastham; Turner (B), Stokoe, Atherton; Bradley, Mayers, Calder, Beaumont, Bartley.

Referee: D. H. Howell, Birmingham. Attendance: 6,108.

"This was a tough, hard-fought struggle, from which Luton emerged worthy winners. Both sides missed chances but Luton did enough to gain both points because of a sparkling first-half display by their forward line which made Bury's much-vaunted defence look second rate.

"During this period it was Luton, not Bury, who looked contenders for promotion. On the right-wing, Walden moved past Eastham with ease, and in the middle, Davies and Turner always threatened danger."—"Sunday Telegraph."

"Here were teams with weaknesses in the same department—inside forward. Bury had made an unsuccessful attempt to sign Ken Hale from Newcastle, and Luton's bid for Stuart Leary had failed. The match served to prove how right both clubs would be to go on with the search.

"Luton won because they had in 20-years-old Ron Davies the most imaginative and constructive forward on the field. He brilliantly headed them into the lead after 14 minutes. That was a goal worth its weight in gold. Previously the main danger had come from Bury who might have taken a substantial lead early on had there been greater steadiness in their finishing." — "Sunday Express."

"Luton should have won this game with comparative ease, yet finally made hard work of it. In the 14th minute right-half Bob Morton powered his way forward and lobbed for the advancing Ron Davies to head a fine goal.

"Then in the 33rd minute Luton turned defensive scrambling into another goal." — "Sunday Pictorial."