SHOT-SHY IN DERBY' GAME AT WATFORD

By CHILTERN WATFORD 2, LUTON 0

IN view of the fact that it was a bright, sunny, if gusty afternoon, the gate at Watford for this first local derby for 26 years was distinctly on the disappointing side. Yet, there seemed to be a bigger following from Luton than had been expected, due possibly to the signing yesterday of Ray Smith from Northampton.

The newcomer was at inside-right, and his inclusion have been in serious trouble had was one of four forward changes, two of them positional, compared with the team beaten narrowly at Port Vale on ILL-JUDGED PASS Monday. Fairchild dropped out, Jardine was unfit, and BY WALDEN Walden and Weir were on extreme wings.

an unchanged team.

The Town appeared in the unfamiliar garb of all-white, with red stockings and white tops. This is an outfit they have worn in the past, mainly in floodlight games.

The terraces behind one goal were pretty thickly populated, but at the other end there were wide open spaces, and I doubt if there were more than 12,000 present when Fincham lost the toss, giving Watford advantage of the wind.

WATFORD. - Jennings; Bell, he was attended to. Nicholas; Crisp, Mancini, Next Smith worked the ball Livesey, Oliver, Harris.

Fincham, Lownds; Walden, inevitably was dispossessed. Smith, McKechnie, Salisbury, SPECTACULAR SAVE Weir.

Referee.-J. S. Pickles, Stock-

port. and it looked as if a quite tense

atmosphere might build up. Morton stopped a couple of early Watford raids, and two free-kicks in quick succession

wins behind them, Watford chose ground. From the second, Pacey Harris was left with a chance tried to send Walden away. The which he might have accepted winger was half-stopped, and then had not

> Bright work by McKechnie and the ball ran for a goal kick. Salisbury brought the first full- At last there came a direct shot goal and kicking clear.

ball enabled him to send away easily. Walden, from whose centre Man-McKechnie. In the scramble, Jennings hurt his right thigh, and there was a short stoppage while

Gregory; Howfield, Fraser, neatly before slipping it to Pacey but the right half tried to do far LUTON TOWN. - Baynham; too much in the way of breaking Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, down the defensive wall, and

BY BAYNHAM

The crowd had grown since At the same time, there was the start, and they were seeing McKechnie came again from a was not serious, because he was quite a lot of enthusiasm and the Town holding their own. pass by Weir to shoot first time able to resume, and, to add insult partisanship among the crowd, Yet the nearest approach to a goal came from Watford after ten minutes. After a sudden thrust, Livesey, left in an open space, swung round on the ball TOWN ON quickly, and Baynham had to throw himself to his left to make

a spectacular one-handed save. rather more than a yard wide of paratively easy time. a post.

Watford hit back, and Fincham but the free kick, taken by the back. Gregory, was cleared comfortably.

McKECHNIE DROPS ONE OVER THE BAR

Having beaten Crisp cleverly, McKechnie, out on the left wing, dropped the ball just over the bar, though it might have been better had he aimed for the six-Salisbury were waiting.

tripped Weir, did not avail the down Bell. Town anything, and there was TOWN IN one the other way when Smith was penalised for a foul on Fraser. This, too, was cleared with Morton doing the necessary. Although the ball hung around slightly against the run of the punch. the Town goal for some seconds, play. it was then booted upfield by Salisbury, and McKechnie gave chase in vain.

stopped Livesey as he was in full hit what looked to be a hopeful ford attack that was stemmed by flight, and his clearance set another Town attack on the ham should have saved. After this the Town had a move, though it came to a full . Whether or not he was unstop when Weir centred weakly. | sighted, I cannot say, but the ball

Watford were not making allowance for the strength of the to him, and he made a sort of wind and were tending to overkick their forwards, which was easing the task of the Town defenders.

Again, the Town forwards were tending to be too fanciful and using too many passes to make a limited amount or ground.

EASY FOR THE GOALKEEPERS

Lownds shot wide from 25 yards after a corner by Walden had been half-cleared by Crisp, half was a long that by McKechand, in the main, this match was nie, but it was not powerful not producing a great deal of enough to worry Jennings, and goal-mouth incident

Harris on top of im to cut out a hooked the ball at goal, but through pass, and at the other Baynham gathered easily enough. end Jennings whippen the ball There followed a fine kick right away from the feet of Smith after on the edge of the penalty area. Weir had centred.

ment for either goalkeeper, and ment. The ball smacked against what promising moves were the defensive wall and flew off coming from the Town were not for a corner, which Howfield put producing shots at the end of so far behind as to be almost them.

Salisbury from the right put the PLAY SPOILED BY ball tamely behind after Smith PETTY FOULS had sent him away, and then in Play was being punctuated by the next minute, with nearly half free kicks for what I can only an hour gone, Salisbury went describe as petty fouls, and there being charged by Nicholas.

not serious. Pacey's free kick and from it Crisp headed much was fisted away one-handed by too high. Jennings, and then Watford had Baynham had to run out of his a narrow escape. Weir flicked goal and kick into touch after the ball inside to Lownds, who Pacey had glanced the ball to his took aim from the apex of the left with his head. From this,



RAY SMITH

who was signed from Northampton yesterday for £5,000. was in the team this afternoon.

not Mancini stuck out a foot and deflected it over the bar.

An ill-judged pass by Walden in mid-field put Watford con-On the other hand, with two enabled the Town to make fidently on to the attack, and Baynham re-acted Pacey, following up, was robbed. | quickly and gone down so that

> scale Town raid, which ended of not very superior vintage, from with Jennings running out of his Salisbury after McKechnie and Walden had worked the ball Smith's first contact with the between them, and Jennings saved

> Again, the passing of the cini gave away a corner to stop Fown forwards was going astray all too often, and Watford were still making their through passes too strongly, so that they were going for goal-kicks.

> > Then came a sharp threepronged move, begun by Salisbury and carried on by Smith, which brought a rising shot from an angle by McKechnie. Unfortunately, it cleared the bar with some margin to spare.

more productive effort and spot. Fortunately, the damage from 20 yards. Jennings threw to injury, Watford were given a himself full-length, but the ball was just too wide, anyway.

TOP NOW

ball cleverly to McKechnie, who, occasion, the goalkeeper won, but baffled themselves in the end. however, was on completely the it was a matter of encouragement Only in the matter of goals on wrong beam in making his leftfooted shot, for the ball finished Baynham, who had had a comto Watford, and they were still

was penalised for a foul after a free-kick when Fincham was handle in the area, but the a barging match with Livesey, held to have nudged Livesey in referee was not impressed, and

> have gone for a goal-kick had head away. ball was returned in to the middle midfield followed. and he had to save from Livesey.

In a quick Town break, Smith yard line, where Smith and cross the ball dangerously, and Weir, in an attempt to make the A free-kick, when Howfield the best of the situation, knocked

ARREARS

right wing, switched it quickly on the left. Weir placed it well, into the middle, and right-winger only for Mancini to head clear. A strong tackle by Fincham HOWFIELD, who had drifted, Howfield then built up a Watsort of shot that I thought Bayn- Fincham.

seemed to pass very, very close speculative try at it. It was ineffective because the ball beat him to finish safely in the back of the net.

Just before half-time, Salisbury made a worthy attempt to equalise from a cross by Weir, but his header from point-blank range was headed off the line by Mancini. Half-time:

WATFORD LUTON 0 First incident of the second then a series of detensive mis-Baynham vent down with takes let in Watford. Fraser

taken by Gregory, who seems to There was not much employ- be the specialist in this departunbelievable.

down and stayed down after came another wher. Lownds pushed Howfield in the back Fortunately, the damage was under the nose of the referee,

penalty area. Jennings might well the Town launched a full-scale

stroke of luck when Harris made How The Goals Came

HOWFIELD for Watford after 41 minutes. HARRIS for Watford after 57 minutes.

attack, begun by Pacev in which McKechnie was brought down finally by force of numbers.

Walden picked up a poor pass by Nicholas, but then brought the ball too far inside and ruined the effect by giving it straight to a defender.

A brilliant bit of play by Smith which took him through the Watford defence nearly brought a goal, because his pass aimed for McKechnie was pushed away only in the nick of time by Mancini. The danger was not over, however, and Morton, from mid-way in the Watford half. lobbed the ball into the goalmouth, where Jennings punched by shooting wide. Result: it over the bar. From the cornerkick Lownds got up high to make a strong header that was just too

WATFORD GO FURTHER AHEAD

With 57 minutes gone, Watford increased their lead through leftwinger HARRIS. The forerunner to it came when Livesey exploited a gap in defence, Baynham had to come out desperately -so desperately, in fact, that the crowd roared for a penalty as he brushed the centre-forward off the ball.

The ball went to Harris who smashed it in past Bramwell, who was directly in front of Baynham. There was no doubt about the goalkeeper being unsighted this

Weir was just crowded out at the expense of a corner as he closed in to a long centre by Morton, and as Weir shaped to take the kick, Fincham began a long run upfield, hoping to make contact with his head. Not only did he not do so, but he cannoned into Mancini and finished as a At the same time, it was a casualty almost on the penalty free kick.

TOWN BAFFLE THEMSELVES

Smith whipped the ball left-The Town were on top now, footed just the wrong side of a and Jennings was in action twice post. Then, when the Town had Smith came into the picture in succession, staving off attempts a free-kick just outside the again when he snapped up a long by Smith to head through long penalty area, their execution of pass by Pacey and slipped the balls into the goalmouth. On each it was so intricate that they

having a good share of the play.

Watford came back and gained penalty when Mancini seemed to There were mild appeals for a it was Watford who struck next, Gregory's free-kick was harm- with Howfield making a strong less enough, and would probably centre that Fincham went low to

not Bramwell intervened with his A good deal of play of little head, as a result of which the or no consequence confined to

> Then, there was a queer decision by the referee when Walden slipped full-length. handled the ball in doing so and a freekick for Watford followed, despite the fact that Gregory had the ball at his feet with the goal in front of him.

The Town were still having a With 41 minutes gone, Watford fair share of the play but withtook the lead, and I made it out showing any signs of extra

A free kick came two or three Oliver gathered a ball on the vards outside the penalty area,

into the air. The ball rebounded off the bar, and Fraser, who was running in, just missed it. This was the start of a Watford

spurt, in which Baynham and Howfield went down in a heap when trying to reach a centre by Livesey that went right across the face of the goal.

a shot that Baynham pushed up

With the end drawing close, the Town renewed their efforts, and were a bit unlucky when, in a terrific scramble, Walden got in a shot which inadvertently struck Smith on the back.

Straight from this, there was a break-away by Livesey, who made a long run. As defenders clos in on him from all sides, he drove the ball wide. From the inside-left position,

Fraser made a good drive that went wide of Town's far post with Baynham diving full-length, Watford, in fact, were just about coasting along now. Play was fizzling out now, just

like a damp squib, and Walden emphasised the general mediocrity

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