

MATCH OF TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

Turner Hat-Trick: Two Get Marching Orders

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 4, SOUTHEND UNITED 1

AFTER their particularly barren spell in which the forwards had drawn a blank in four matches out of eight, this could be said to be a completely unexpected result.

It was a match of triumph and tragedy—triumph for Turner who, after having been left out for the previous five games, returned with a hat-trick.

Tragedy for Pacey who was stung into retaliation when Friel deliberately kicked him and, along with the Southend inside-left, was sent off the field.

What began the trouble was the decision of the referee to allow the Town's fourth goal when WEIR calmly swept the ball to the net after McGuffie's tremendous drive had cannoned off a post.

They looked for an offside decision that did not come and Bentley picked up the ball to kick it over the Bobbers' Stand and out of the ground.

This was not seen by the referee, nor did the linesman on the spot, apparently draw his attention to it.

Protests held up the game for some time and then the rough stuff arrived, culminating in the smissals. Even then, things did not simmer down completely, because Bentley was twice penalised for fouls and was loudly booed by the crowd for the remainder of the match.

Southend made a bright beginning, but the Town took the lead after 11 minutes when the alert TURNER was on the spot. Rhodes and King dithered over taking a goal kick and he walked the ball into an empty net.

That was the only score of the first half, though Turner and McGuffie went close just before half-time and the Town held their own although Smith was limping heavily at outside-left after the 50th minute.

Southend had a goal disallowed

for hands early in the second half, but it was the Town who scored next when, in the 54th minute, TURNER made no mistake from the penalty spot after Costello had pulled down McKechnie.

TURNER'S HAT-TRICK

Five minutes later TURNER completed a hat-trick when he headed in a centre by Smith, and next came Weir's goal which was the cause of all the later trouble.

There was some pressure from Southend in the closing stages during which Bramwell was adjudged to have pulled down Woodley and BRADBURY got them a consolation goal from the spot.

This was easily the Town's best win of the season, and the fact that Turner was very much on the spot had much to do with it.

However, the inclusion of McGuffie brought a marked improvement because he showed considerable driving power and splendid marksmanship.

Considering how handicapped he was by an ankle injury, Smith gave a most impressive display of intelligent distribution of the ball, and Weir came into it after the interval after an unsuccessful first half.

Fairchild seldom seemed to be able to get clear of King and McKechnie, though working hard, came in for some rough usage.

There was an outstanding display from Fincham, who had control of the centre of the field, and Morton again shone once he had taken the measure of McKinven. Bramwell had little trouble with Woodley and Pacey worked tremendously hard until the game ended prematurely as far as he was concerned.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, McGuffie; Fairchild, Smith, Turner, McKechnie, Weir.

SOUTHEND UNITED: Rhodes; Neal, King; Bentley, Costello, Bradbury; Woodley, Smith, Ashworth, Friel, McKinven.

Referee: H. G. New, Havant.
Attendance: 5,337.