

# OLDHAM GET DECIDER IN SNAP RAID

By CHILTERN

## LUTON TOWN 1, OLDHAM ATH. 2

THERE was a late change in the Town team to meet Oldham Athletic at Kenilworth-road this afternoon, because Tommy McKechnie, who bruised his ribs at Bristol last week, suffered a recurrence of the trouble and was ruled out by the club doctor. In his place came Gordon Riddick, who was at inside-right at Peterborough last Saturday.

So, in fact, all three inside-forward positions were changed because Ray Smith and Gordon Turner had both recovered from ankle trouble and were able to resume.

On the other hand, Oldham, who hit the winning trail again last Saturday after an unproductive spell, were unchanged.

On a fine, if little chilly afternoon, the crowd was little improvement on recent attendances but included quite a few supporters from Oldham, who had left home at 7.30 a.m. this morning.

Manager Bill Harvey was not at the match. Instead, he had made the trip to Bridgwater to run the rule over next Saturday's cup opponents. "It was the obvious thing to do," the Chairman, Mr. P. G. Mitchell, told me.

### CHANGE OF COLOURS

The Oldham fans were sporting blue and white favours, but their side turned out in changed colours of tangerine shirts and white shorts.

In the first minute, the Town attacking the Kenilworth - road end, were prominent, with Walden tricking Marshall and putting over a high centre which Riddick turned over the bar. Baynham was first in action when Bramwell deflected the ball and the goalkeeper had to punch away one-handed with the result that the ball was returned into the penalty area and Johnstone missed a good chance from close in.

Turner sparked off a good move which nearly led to a chance for Smith, who could not quite reach the ball. Williams cleared.

At times, the Town attack was moving with some purpose, and a long throw-in by Pacey was hooked into the goalmouth by McGuffie. There was a tussle between Turner and Bollands, which the goalkeeper won, but it was a wasted effort as it turned out, because the centre-forward was ruled off-side.

### OLDHAM LOOKING DANGEROUS

Back came Oldham, and Colquhoun tested Baynham with a 20-yards drive from which the goalkeeper had to concede a corner. Oldham were beginning to look more dangerous and Frizzell made a long run which ended with a low shot that found Baynham badly positioned but which whipped wide of the far post.

With their wing-halves coming through, Oldham were threatening to take control, and several dangerous - looking situations developed. Yet the Town fought back, and Smith was well off the target with his left foot after Walden had slipped the ball inside to him.

A brilliant run by Walden, who was being closely marked, brought a pass to Smith, who controlled the ball cleverly, and his shot, which was well on the mark, was deflected for a corner

### CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY

Both teams were trying to play constructive football, but both—the Town in particular — were lacking the final thrust that brings goals. Turner distributed the ball neatly to Walden, whose centre was far too close to Bollands, and the goalkeeper cleared comfortably.

The most danger from the Town was coming from the right wing, and after Smith had sent away Walden, who was looking in better form than in recent matches, Pacey crashed in the ball which rebounded off the knees of Williams.

### TOWN FALL FOR TRICK

Best effort for the Town so far came from McGuffie, who brought Bollands to his knees with a powerful drive. Then came a free kick to Oldham inches outside the penalty area when Pacey brought down Johnstone, who had got clear of all opposition.

The free kick proved fatal to the Town because it led to Oldham taking the lead after 25 minutes. After careful line-up, the Town fell for the old confidence trick. Johnstone shaped as if to take the kick, ran over the ball, and WHITAKER cracked at goal.

Even so, the Town were unlucky, because the powerful drive struck a defender—Fincham, I thought it was, so deflecting the flight of the ball, which thudded into the roof of the net.

In a sudden Oldham raid, Baynham and Ledger were

shaken up in a collision as the ball came across from Whitaker. The winger had to have attention before resuming with something of a limp. Oldham were definitely looking the more punchy outfit and the Town were in luck when Ledger dropped a centre on top of the bar.

### BAYNHAM TO THE RESCUE

Then, hesitation on the part of Morton let in Colquhoun, whose shot was hastily snatched up by Baynham, and Oldham continued to prosper with Whitaker crossing the ball and Bramwell being fortunate in that his half-hit clearance went straight to the feet of McGuffie.

Increasingly Whitaker was becoming dangerous and he laid on a glorious chance for Colquhoun, who missed his kick when only eight yards from goal, but Oldham, moving the ball about crisply, were very much in control at this stage.

Almost completely the Town attack had faded out as a cohesive unit and there was little sign of an effective link-up in midfield. Then Riddick, who was being barracked by the crowd, sent away Walden, whose centre was not exactly tailor-made because Bollands was able to go down to it and at the same time resist a challenge by Smith.

### MEASURE OF IMPROVEMENT

After this there was some measure of improvement by the Town but the forwards, particularly the wingers, were again tending to be caught in possession, and Walden spoilt the prospect of a good movement by running straight into Marshall.

As the interval approached, the Town came more into it, and they were unlucky when a shot by Turner, from Walden's centre, struck a defender and dropped clear of any other Town forward. Then Riddick brought Bollands to his knees at the foot of the post with a well-made shot.

Again, Bollands was in action, this time from a left-footed drive by Turner from the edge of the penalty area, and then, with the ball remaining at the Oldham end, Jardine was dispossessed after he had run through in promising style.

In these last few minutes of the half, the Town were looking more dangerous than at any previous stage, but they could not find that final thrust. Half-time:

LUTON ..... 0  
OLDHAM ..... 1

The Town began the second half with their left-wing pair of Jardine and Riddick switched, which was not surprising, because both had been most ineffective.

There was some show of force by the Town in the early minutes of the second half, and Bollands had to throw himself full-length to stop a shot by Walden from creeping in near the post. His corner was cleared straight to McGuffie, who from nearly 25 yards produced a terrific drive which, unfortunately, flew a yard too high.

There seemed more urgency about the Town's play now, and it was certainly needed because Oldham had been using the ball altogether more accurately and more quickly. Back they came in to it, with a longish shot by Ledger passing too high, and then Fincham made a clever clearance when Colquhoun tried to find Lister.

### EQUALISER FOR THE TOWN

Then the Town drew level in the 54th minute through TURNER. It came in a snap raid in which Smith played a leading part. It appeared as if the chance had been lost when the ball ran loose, but the reaction of the Oldham defence was a little lethargic so that Turner was able to hook the ball just under the bar when on the half-turn.

This sparked off a Town revival in which Turner stood out, but he hung on to the ball too long in trying to find a way through the defence when a pass to Smith would have been more productive.

There was booing for the referee when Walden was obstructed in starting an ambitious run and no free-kick given, and then ironical cheers when he

## How The Goals Came

WHITAKER for Oldham after 25 minutes  
TURNER for Luton after 54 minutes  
LEDGER for Oldham after 85 minutes.

penalised Smith for a similar type of offence.

### PLAY NOW MORE SPIRITED

Then a chance cropped up for Turner, laid on by Smith, but he failed to control the ball quickly enough. With the tempo stepping up, Lister shot over after a headed clearance by Fincham had gone straight to him. There was certainly more life and spirit about the play this half.

The light was becoming gloomy and one wondered why the floodlights had not been switched on.

A back pass by Fincham nearly put the Town in trouble because the ball went very close to the far post with Baynham scampeling across his goal. At the other end, Jardine shot wide from a good position and the general pattern was of the Town doing plenty of pressing but breaking down at the vital moment.

### THE LIGHTS COME ON

Then on came the floodlights, to the accompaniment of cheers from the crowd.

Appeals for a penalty for hands against Oldham were turned down, and this was a movement which rather illustrated the unlucky way in which the ball was running for the Town in front of goal. McGuffie had joined the attack and would have been an almost certain scorer had the ball got through to him but it was just deflected.

Jardine sparked off another raid which fell down because Walden would persist in holding on to the ball when he had ample opportunity to use it.

### DEFENCE IN A TANGLE

Then the Town defence got themselves in to a tangle as a result of which Whitaker nearly forced his way through to restore the lead, the ball passing just wide of a post.

Certainly the Town were making a fight for it and Turner won a corner, which he took himself, and from it Jardine had a shot blocked. However, at this juncture passes were tending to go astray.

There was fresh booing of the referee when Smith went down heavily after what I considered a foul but there was no free kick, and there was a slight stoppage while Smith had attention to his right knee. During this, it looked as if the inside-right had had his name taken for some reason, but I could not be certain because Turner's back blotted out a clear view of what was going on.

### REFEREE DISALLOWS PACEY "GOAL"

Then came crowning disappointment when the referee disallowed a 'goal' by Pacey in the 74 minute. It came in a sudden rush on the Oldham goal following a corner. After Riddick had failed to force it home, Pacey crashed it into the roof of the net. What reason there was for disallowing it was far from clear.

However, the Town kept it up, and Smith tested Bollands with a powerful shot.

Fresh injury trouble for the Town came when Walden was fouled by Williams during a movement between him and Turner. Walden stayed down, and there was a hold-up for some time before the free kick could

be taken. He looked pretty well shaken, and was led to the touch-line by trainer, Frank King.

Turner took the kick, which unfortunately struck Smith when it might have been dangerous.

### WHITAKER "BOOKED"

Then, with temper creeping into the game, there was no doubt about the fact that the referee booked Whitaker for a bad foul on Smith.

Even with ten men, the Town continued to have the better of matters, and it looked as if they would continue to be under strength because Walden, on the far side of the field, attended by the trainer and an ambulance man, was doubled up and looked to be in a pretty bad way.

A badly-timed headed clearance by Bramwell gave Colquhoun a chance to put Oldham in the lead again, but there was quick covering up and the inside-left's shot was beaten down.

Then came a remarkable escape for the Town when Colquhoun went straight through, beat Baynham, and saw his shot cannon-off the inside of the post and straight back across the goal.

### TOWN DOWN TO TEN MEN

Then it was seen that Walden was being led to the dressing room and at that point there were ten minutes left.

The handicap of playing a man short was beginning to tell on



GORDON TURNER scored the equaliser in the 54th minute during a snap raid.

| LUTON TOWN                                                                            |                 |          |           |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Right                                                                                 |                 |          |           | Left     |
|                                                                                       | Baynham         |          |           |          |
|                                                                                       | Morton          |          | Bramwell  |          |
| Pacey                                                                                 |                 | Fincham  |           | McGuffie |
| Walden                                                                                | Smith           | Turner   | Riddick   | Jardine  |
|  |                 |          |           |          |
| Referee: Mr. D. Brady (Rotherham)                                                     |                 |          |           |          |
| Whitaker                                                                              | Colquhoun       | Lister   | Johnstone | Ledger   |
|                                                                                       | Sievwright      | Williams |           | Frizzell |
|                                                                                       | Marshall        |          | Taylor    |          |
|                                                                                       |                 | Bollands |           |          |
| Left                                                                                  | OLDHAM ATHLETIC |          |           | Right    |

the Town, and they were forced back on to the defensive for a spell.

Back into it came the Town with a move started by Riddick and carried on by Smith. Out to Turner, who closed in quickly, and his low cross just eluded Smith and was deflected by Bollands for a corner only inches wide of the far post.

### SHOCK GOAL FROM OLDHAM

Then came a shock goal for Oldham five minutes from the end when Bramwell gave away a corner, taken by Johnstone. As the ball came over, LEDGER nipped in to beat Bramwell to it and deflect the ball into the net with his head.

Seconds after this, Turner was badly obstructed when making a solo run, and the Town had ill-luck from the free-kick. Fincham came up, and Morton's lob found him accurately. Up went the centre-half, met the ball squarely with his head, and it struck the face of the cross-bar and was scrambled away for a

corner from which Bollands saved from Riddick.

Fincham stayed with the attack for a while, during which there was imminent danger to the Oldham goal and the Town, handicapped though they were, made a fair fight to save a point.

There was a terrific scramble in which Bollands fell on the ball, surrounded by three Town players trying to force it in, but the up-shot was a free kick to Oldham for a foul on the goalkeeper

Result:  
LUTON TOWN ..... 1  
OLDHAM ATHLETIC... 2

