

TOWN LOSE THAT AWAY GOAL SHYNESS

SIX IN THE SECOND HALF AT BRENTFORD

O'Rourke The Hero, But Captain, Pacey, Stood Out

By CHILTERN

HOW come a team that scored only five goals in its first 13 away matches suddenly blasts in nine in two consecutive games on opponents' grounds?

Manager Bill Harvey was wondering about this as the Town left the Brentford ground on Saturday, jubilant at having ended that long run without an away success.

To reach the answer is a baffling business, but I would say that, in the main, it is due to a combination of effects.

OBVIOUSLY, more punch and determination in attack is being shown and, also, they are at last beginning to get a kinder run of the ball.

As a result, scoring efforts which were missing narrowly in the earlier games, are now counting.

Certainly, those six goals in the second half at Griffin Park provided the sensation of the day and set the players wondering when a Luton team had last obtained as many away from home.

Without having consulted the records, I should say that this has not happened since the war.

What About New Signings Now?

IN the Town's palmier days, I can recall a 5-1 Cup win at Rotherham and 4-0 defeats of Sheffield United at Bramall-lane and Hull City at Booth-ferry Park.

Then there was that never-to-be-forgotten-match at Molineux when Wolves triumphed by 5-4 after a manic struggle.

Last time I can recall the Town scoring six was at Southampton shortly before the war when they beat the Saints by 6-3.

Now, with three Directors having been out on Saturday looking for new players and another having stayed in Luton to have a look at Leicester Reserves, the point arises of whether anything is to be done about new signings.

Less Urgency, But The Search Goes On

WHAT the effect has probably been is to take some of the urgency out of the search, but the Chairman, Tom Hodgson, indicated yesterday that it would not be called off on account of one victory.

"We need to cover up still," but I doubt whether there will

be any immediate signings. Last week the Chairman said that any player they fancied would be seen at least twice, and I understand that he saw a full-back on Saturday whom he feels would measure up to what the Town want.

There will be a further check on him this week, but there is some doubt about whether his club will be willing to let him go.

Three Points Gap Still Exists

ANOTHER player will also be looked at again but, mainly, it was a case of, in the Chairman's words, "The players we would take are not on offer."

However, it could be that after this big win, the team will settle down with a great deal more confidence for the remainder of the programme and they have a fine chance to emphasise this on Saturday when Shrewsbury Town are the visitors.

Every possible point must be collected now, because there is still that three points gap to be eliminated and Q.P.R. and Barnsley, the teams of whom they have most hope of overhauling each have two games in hand.

O'Rourke Might Have Been On Left Wing

HERO of the hour at Brentford, of course, was John O'Rourke who, in previous matches, has been looking as if he might become a prolific scorer, but has not quite been able to fulfil that promise.

However, fulfilment came all right on this occasion in an amazing spell of scoring that was truly the result of opportunism.

Yet, the idea was firmly fixed in the mind of the manager before the game started that he would switch O'Rourke to outside-left during its course in order to find room for Riddick



Four-goal John O'Rourke

at inside-forward and give McKechnie his fling down the middle.

Manager Thought Changes Unnecessary

WHEN half-time arrived without the Town having scored and not having shown a lot more punch than usual, I thought that plan might be put into operation but, presumably, the manager has second sight because he left the formation as it was.

"I thought we would get goals without changes," he told me afterwards and he had considerably more faith at half-time than I had.

Yet, in midfield, the Town had been every bit as good as Brentford and were mainly short of goals because the final pass tended to be inaccurate and that most of the shooting was done from longish range.

Proof That Goals Come From Close Range

WHAT happened in the second half proved abundantly that goals mostly come from close quarters, and this is a lesson that the Town should digest to the full.

When the second-half made its sensational start, the Town were trailing a goal behind, scored after 12 minutes by McAdams, who found a gap down the middle from a pass by Lazarus and coolly lobbed the ball over Baynham's head.

In less than a minute after the interval, the Town were level because Walden pushed the ball through after Brodie had failed to hold a cross by McKechnie.

Goals Arrived At Regular Intervals

FOUR MINUTES later, the Town were ahead when Walden closed in to meet a pass from the left, and his shot struck a post before going on to O'Rourke, who eagerly snapped up the chance.

Goals came at regular intervals, with Lazarus putting Brentford level a minute later, but only six minutes had gone before O'Rourke completed his first hat-trick for the club.

First, he beautifully timed his header from Bramwell's free-kick and then fastened on to a back-pass to slam the ball past the helpless Brodie. In addition, he dropped another shot on to the top of the bar.

Brodie Handed Over Goalkeeper's Jersey

SHORTLY after this, Brodie, who had damaged an ankle early on, handed over his goalkeeper's jersey to Jones, who made a hash of his first task, a cross-shot by McKechnie and O'Rourke was there to make certain that the ball went over the line.

However, no goalkeeper could have done anything about the sixth goal which came from a tremendous left-footed drive by Walden, who hit the bar just before the end.

Meanwhile, Brentford still had some fight left and might easily have had another goal or two.

Extra Strength In Middle Of Field

BRAMWELL headed out a shot by Block just as it was about to go under the bar and, in the dying minutes, first Bramwell, then Caleb, cleared a dangerous situation.

At the fantastic turn of events, the loyal Town supporters had just about gone delirious with joy,

and this result certainly helped to pay off for some of the depressing displays they have watched.

From where did the Town's improvement spring? A good deal of it, I feel, came from the extra strength and domination in the middle of the field, where Pacey, who was given the captaincy, played an inspired game.

Pacey Showed Sense Of Responsibility

NOT only did he make it a near nightmare for the former Watford player, Ward, at whom the home fans yelled derision, but he showed a proper sense of responsibility by the way in which he gave cover to young Caleb.

For this player, it was obviously a difficult occasion, and he took time to find his feet.

However, Pacey was always on hand to help out and, to a lesser extent, so was Lownds, who thoroughly justified his inclusion and the hard tackling of the wing-halves had much to do with putting the Brentford attack out of joint.

Reid Had His Best Game So Far

AS for Caleb, he looked much happier after the interval when he started to go in to meet the ball, and obviously he will need a settling down period, but the promise is there.

Then, of course, there was the extra mobility in attack, due in no small measure to a big improvement by Reid who played far more in keeping with his reputation and had his best game so far.

For one thing, he opened out play much better than he has been doing and the rest of the forwards duly profited.

Bramwell's Tackling Was Valuable

O'ROURKE'S scoring feat speaks for itself, and Walden, who is not often among the goals to any marked extent, also proved to be a dangerous number.

McKechnie was certainly more successful than the previous week, though a goal was denied him, while Riddick did a useful hard-working job without really suggesting that he will be the permanent answer at outside-left.

If the tackling of Pacey and Lownds was valuable so, too, was that of Bramwell, who had a fine match and McBain also

'PICTORIAL' WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

put up a highly creditable performance.

No doubt Baynham appreciated the extra cover, but even so, he made several fine saves.

Commendable Win By The Reserves

THE Reserves also had a very commendable victory to celebrate on Saturday night after they had beaten second in the Combination table Leicester City by 2-1.

City's experienced attack was completely subdued during the first half and it was right against the run of play that they took a 27th minute lead through Riley.

However, with Chandler, Salisbury and Clarke showing great determination, the balance righted itself after the interval with two great goals from Salisbury and Fairchild.

Salisbury's was a picture header from a beautiful floating cross by Smith, and Fairchild's winner 10 minutes from the end was a great drive after he had skilfully worked his way through on his own.

FOR THE RECORDS

BRENTFORD 2
McAdams, Lazarus

LUTON TOWN 6
Walden (2), O'Rourke (4)

BRENTFORD : Brodie; Jones, Thomson; Smith, Gelson, Higginson; Lazarus, Fielding, McAdams, Ward, Block.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McBain, Bramwell; Pacey, Caleb, Lownds; Walden, McKechnie, O'Rourke, Reid, Riddick.

Referee: J. E. Carr, Shetfield. Attendance: 9,000.