

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

AMAZING REVIVAL FROM THE TOWN

O'Rourke's Four Goals In Fantastic Second Half

By "CHILTERN"

BRENTFORD 2, LUTON TOWN 6

63/64

"John O'Rourke, Luton's 18-years-old centre-forward from Chelsea banged in four goals and gave manager Bill Harvey's boys their first away win for 15 months. "Harvey's reaction: 'I'm sorry for Malcolm McDonald, Brentford's manager. I know just how he feels.'—"The People."

"Eighteen-year-old Luton centre-forward John O'Rourke cracked four goals in a whirlwind 15 minute second half spell to take Luton to their first away win since a year last November.

"And previously, John had scored just two League goals in his career! Said O'Rourke: 'I had a feeling that it could be my day.'—"Sunday Mirror."

"John O'Rourke, an 18-year-old Chelsea reject signed just before Christmas, snapped four goals in a devastating 16 minute spell just after half-time to earn bottom of the Third Division Luton their first away win for 15 months. Live-wire O'Rourke had the small but happy band of Luton supporters in the 9,000 Griffin Park crowd chanting a 'Glory, Glory' theme.

"But for slumping Brentford there were chants of another sort. At the end of the game a section of the crowd called for manager Malcolm MacDonald to go and clamoured for the recall of skipper Mel Scott."—"Sunday Express."

"Six second half goals to Luton, four in a 14 minute spell to 18-years-old centre-forward John O'Rourke—an astonishing performance from struggling bottom club Luton, who became the last of the Third Division clubs to get an away win this season.

"It was an amazing transformation scene, for Luton had a poor first half and trailed by a goal scored in the 11th minute by Brentford's Irish international centre-forward Billy McAdams."—"Sunday Telegraph."

AN amazing spell of 21 minutes at the start of the second half at Griffin Park on Saturday, brought six goals, five of them to the Town whose gallant band of followers who have put up with much frustration these last two seasons were at last given something about which to shout.

That the game should take this turn came as a complete surprise because the first half produced nothing of a spectacular nature and brought only one goal, obtained in the 12th minute by McADAMS.

Although the Town had an equal share of the midfield play in which they looked not a whit behind Brentford, there was not the sense of urgency in their finishing, nor the accuracy in the final pass, that suggested that they could hit the jack-pot.

That was all changed, seconds after the resumption when WALDEN tapped the ball through after Brodie had saved from McKechnie and that seemed to give the Town the confidence they had been lacking previously.

Shock followed shock because, in the 50th minute, O'ROURKE scored the first of his four goals after a shot by Walden had been deflected off the post, out of the reach of Brodie.

Deflation for the Town came almost immediately because a minute later, LAZARUS put Brentford level after the Town defence had got itself into a muddle.

However, the game swung again dramatically with three goals from O'ROURKE in 14 minutes, making him, in all four in 17 minutes.

First, he headed a free kick from Bramwell in with beautiful timing and then fastened on to a back pass that did not carry and blazed it low into the net.

GOALKEEPER HANDS OVER

With 20 minutes gone, Brodie who had hurt himself early on, came out of goal, handed his jersey to Jones who, immediately failed to save a shot by McKechnie and O'ROURKE was there to chalk up his fourth goal.

Immediately after that, Brodie, who had to go to outside-right, disappeared from the scene and was said to be suffering from ankle trouble.

After that, the Town, apart from some occasional, but pertinent, thrusts by Brentford, were well on top and WALDEN put on their sixth goal eight minutes from the end with a screaming left-footed drive that would have beaten most experienced goalkeepers.

There were a couple of escapes at close quarters for the Town after that but, against that, was another Walden drive that smacked against the face of the bar.

The fighting spirit and determination that was so sadly lacking from the Town's display the previous week was well in evidence on this occasion, and much of it was derived from added bite at wing-half.

Here, Pacey was outstanding, not only in fulfilling his own task,

but in providing adequate cover for Caleb, who was making his League debut.

Lownds, too, brought more drive with his hard tackling, and there was adequate backing from Bramwell and McBain, both of whom were terrier-like in their work, and neither knew what it was to be beaten.

As for Caleb, he showed a very tentative approach in the first half, when he was obviously feeling his feet, but he looked better afterwards when he began to go in to meet the ball.

Behind them all, Baynham was capable and assured and made several excellent saves.

While O'Rourke's goals and general dash and enthusiasm earned him top rating in the attack, due regard should be paid to the work of Reid, who had his best game since joining the Town.

A most effective midfield link, he used the through pass much more than he did in the previous match and generally looked the class player he was reputed to be when the Town paid a £13,000 fee for him.

McKechnie was always a busy thruster, sometimes running into trouble, but for all that always being there or thereabouts when the ball came through.

From Walden there was a far more positive contribution than some he has made this season, while Riddick worked hard and not completely unsuccessfully in an unaccustomed position.

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. F. Carr, Sheffield. Attendance: 9,000.