

O'ROURKE SET THE TOWN ON FIRE

Goal-Rush Gave Him Four In 17 Minutes

2622 8-2-64 By CHILTERN

BRENTFORD 2, LUTON TOWN 6
THAT mid-week promise by the Town that there would be a drive for new players this week-end, was duly fulfilled today, because three Directors and the Chief Scout, George Martin, were covering three matches in the hope of seeing some players who will help to halt the Town's decline.

Manager Bill Harvey, however, decided that his place was with the team at Brentford — understandably enough in view of the fact that he had 18-years-old Graham Caleb making his debut at centre-half in place of the captain, Gordon Fincham.

Also left out of the half-back line was Bob Morton, who is nearing his 500th League appearance, and the vacancy went to Mark Lownds, with Dave Pacey switching to the right, as he has often done in the past.

Remaining change was at outside-left, where Gordon Riddick was brought in for Jim Weir. Riddick is normally an inside-forward, and it seemed not beyond the bounds of possibility that he would be switched inside at some time during the match.

Brentford, who took their team apart last week, after their home Cup defeat by Oxford, were unchanged following a better display at Reading.

"WITH IT" IN GIMMICKS

Brentford may not be doing all that well on the field, but they are "with it," to quote what I understand is a current phrase.

Before the match, a beat group of live, together with the traditional long-haired "pop" singer, entertained the crowd and the amplification was such as to make phoning an almost impossible business.

It was a crisp, sunny afternoon with the pitch in good condition, just soft on top after the frost.

The Town played all in white as they have done on other occasions this season, especially when the opposition have been playing in black shorts, as were Brentford.

There was quite a following of Town supporters, including 15 members of the newly formed Junior Section of the Bobbers' Club which at the moment has a membership of 29.

EARLY TOWN RAID

The Town were the more dangerous in the early minutes, and O'Rourke very nearly made an opening for the oncoming McKechnie, who was thwarted when Brodie came quickly out of goal to smother his shot.

On the main stand side particularly — on which the Town right-wing was operating — the turf was greasy on top.

The Town kept up the pressure following a free kick after which Pacey shot tamely through a crowd of defenders and the ball went wide.

Somewhat or another Brodie had got himself injured in the process and there was a hold up while he received attention. Thomson took the goal kick.

Again from a slight limp, Brodie seemed to be all right again, and the first real threat from Brentford was broken up when McBain stepped in in timely fashion.

A foul against Reid brought Brentford a free kick that was headed by Lownds to Block, whose shot, taken on the volley, smacked straight into McBain, who was a bit shaken by the impact.

Next thrust came from the Town through McKechnie, who ran on to a through pass by Reid, but was forced out to an angle by the challenge of Higginson, and his hard drive was a yard wide of the near post.

McKechnie was looking quite dangerous, hanging around in the open space, and this looked as if it could be a valuable pattern in the Town's play.

Chance for Brentford came when Caleb was lured out to the right and the ball was squared across the goal by Ward.

It was never cleared and in the finish McAdams was left with a very good chance indeed but from inside the penalty area he cracked the ball just wide.

Brentford were now beginning to settle down and Lazarus only half-hit his shot at Baynham after a movement developed on the left.

When the Town came back again, O'Rourke was pulled down

from behind by Gelson a couple of yards outside the penalty area, but Reid's free kick was firmly headed out by Jones.

GOAL IN A BREAKAWAY

Straight from this Brentford broke away to score through McAdams, after 12 minutes.

A long through pass by Lazarus beat Caleb and McAdams, fastening on to it quickly, coolly lobbed the ball over the head of Baynham, who came out to try to avert the disaster, this was the only thing he could do and the ball floated gently into the net.

After a foul on Smith, the referee had a word with Reid, who then, after the free-kick had been cleared, went chasing through after a pass by Riddick.

Unfortunately, he could not control the ball, but Brentford



HARRY WALDEN
put the Town on terms immediately after the interval. He gave Luton their sixth goal in the 82nd minute.

were forced back on the defensive again and Reid headed wide from a corner by Riddick.

At this stage, the Town were looking vulnerable to the long pass down the middle and Ward should have done better than he did with one that left him an almost clear run to goal.

Chance of an equaliser came from the Town during a hot raid in which Walden slipped the ball to McKechnie, who from a fairly wide angle and aiming for the far corner, sent the ball wide.

Once again the Town were finding the final pass going astray, but Reid, opening things up with a well judged pass to Walden, centred accurately, but O'Rourke found the way barred.

Bramwell got the Town out of a fair amount of trouble with a brilliant clearance after some indecisive work by Caleb.

IN THE NET — NO GOAL

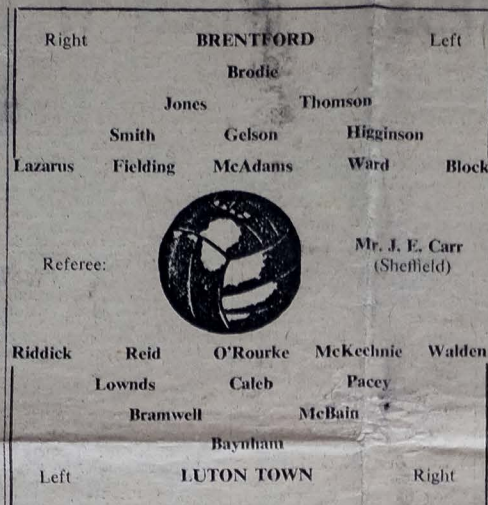
Then suddenly Riddick flashed into the picture with a clever run and a pass to McKechnie who was tackled and in his eagerness to regain possession of the ball, fouled Higginson after the whistle had gone for a free kick, seconds before the ball entered the Brentford net.

Back came Brentford, who were inclined to use too many passes in attack, in which they were not looking all that lethal, due in large measure to some firm tackling by Pacey and Bramwell.

Baynham came out with good judgment to cut off a cross by Fielding as McAdams and Lazarus closed in, and then McKechnie, after chasing a long clearance by Bramwell, got the ball into the middle, but it went across the face of the goal without anyone being able to get a foot to it.

A foul on Riddick by Jones was quickly taken by Reid to Riddick who unfortunately put his cross behind.

When Brentford swept to the attack, Pacey for once was beaten in the tackle so that Block, steaming down the centre-forward position, was able to test



Baynham, from whom the ball broke away and he had to dive bravely at the feet of Fielding to avert further disaster.

TOWN LACK THRUST

On the run of the play there was not much in it, but once again the Town were not showing the sort of thrust that makes goals.

Walden was pulled down on the edge of the penalty area when he ran smack into Thomson, but Pacey's free kick, nicely lobbed into the area, was cut off by Brodie as O'Rourke and Riddick closed in in an attempt to reach it with their heads.

After this the referee overruled an offside decision by a linesman against O'Rourke — not that it mattered, because the centre-forward was finding precious little room in which to operate, and again he found the way barred.

When Brentford came back again, Caleb made a solid clearance.

Then there was excitement at the Town end when Baynham, going up for a high ball, collided with a defender so that the ball ran loose, but from the prone position he saved from McAdams and Fielding though it was a close thing.

Best attempt at a goal for the Town for some time came from O'Rourke who took a pass from Walden, Brodie, some yards out of his goal, just managed to reach the ball at full stretch.

A collision between Caleb and Lownds nearly proved serious for the Town because the ball was pushed down the middle and it was as well that Pacey was there to cover.

The Town were still having a fair share of the play, but still without showing real drive at close quarters, as was illustrated when Riddick shot wide weakly from nearly 20 yards.

O'Rourke very nearly nipped in for a goal from a Walden pass but Brodie dived at his feet and the centre-forward performed a graceful somersault with gaining possession of the ball.

Most of the shooting from the Town was from far too long a range to cause Brodie much worry.

Back came the Town again with O'Rourke sending away Walden from whose centre McKechnie headed the ball but without force and it went gently to Brodie.

There was a word from the referee for McAdams and Caleb, following a clash that produced

some pushing when Brentford were awarded a free kick.

Quick anticipation by Brodie spoiled a chance for McKechnie after Pacey had pushed the ball through and at the other end, Baynham had to perform a similar task.

Twice in rather less than a minute Walden was penalised for fouls on Thomson and then on



JOHN O'ROURKE
whose second goal — a "picture" header — put the Town in front. A minute or so later he got his third goal. This was followed by his fourth goal in the 66th minute.

Ward, but the free kicks brought nothing, and O'Rourke then spearheaded a Town raid, in which he made Gelson go in the wrong way but his attempt to find McKechnie in front of goal was cut off. Half-time:

BRENTFORD 1
LUTON TOWN 0

In the first minute of the second half, the Town drew level through WALDEN, who ran in to tap the ball through, after Brodie had gone down to cut off a cross from the by-line by McKechnie and had failed to hold the ball.

For a time it looked as if the goal had given the Town the confidence they had lacked previously, but Brentford began to get over the shock and Block

headed just too high from a centre by Lazarus.

Straight from this the Town broke away and Reid, having made ground quickly, shot from 20 yards and Brodie made yet another save when it looked as if the ball might possibly elude him.

It was fast, up and down play now, and when Brentford's turn came, Bramwell stepped in in most timely fashion to stop a hard cross from Lazarus.

TOWN GET LEAD

Then the Town broke away and gained the lead. It was a curious sort of goal for which O'Rourke got the final credit, but Walden had a hand in it, too.

The ball came across from the left to Walden who closed in from a very sharp angle. The ball struck the foot of the post before deceiving Brodie who was left hopelessly placed and O'Rourke was on hand to tap the ball through.

That was after 50 minutes but the Town lead was of short duration because Brentford levelled a minute later. LAZARUS was the scorer, as the result of a defensive mix-up during which Baynham once had the ball, but was worried into losing it by Ward, and there was a terrific rush, during which Lazarus, who had come into the middle, tapped the ball through a crowd of players.

GOAL-RUSH CONTINUES

Two minutes later, with the tremendous goal-rush continuing, the Town went ahead again through O'Rourke, who went up beautifully to connect with his head a free-kick by Bramwell which had been ordered to be retaken.

O'Rourke, always a danger in the air, got right off the ground, beat Brodie's leap and glided the ball into the far corner of the net for a picture goal.

FOUR GOALS IN 8 MINUTES

So in an amazing eight minute spell after half-time, we had had four goals, three of them to the Town.

It really was an amazing transformation, because no-one would have said in the first-half that this was a match that looked like exploding.

Brentford fought back desperately and it needed equally desperate work by Baynham on two occasions to prevent an equaliser.

Then the completion of a hat-trick by O'Rourke and yet another distinction — an opportunity of this youngster.

The initial work was done by Lownds in typically gaitian style, because he went for a ball that some players would have given up for lost. He was only partially successful but the Brentford defence seem over-worried by his activity, so that Thomson tried to pass back to Brodie which proved to be little more than suicide.

O'Rourke sensed the possibility, was on the ball at once and slammed it into the net before being surrounded by his delighted colleagues.

This was after 57 minutes so O'Rourke had achieved a personal hat-trick in only eight minutes — which is something.

O'Rourke was very nearly on the mark again after a fine individual run during which he doubled back on his tracks and foxed Gelson and with Brentford expecting him to pass he let go a shot that beat Brodie and bounced over all the top of the bar.

DOUBLE BLOW FOR BRENTFORD

Then, Brentford suffered a blow. It was 20 minutes after the start of the second half when Brodie, who had had to have attention early on, had the

How The Goals Came

McADAMS for Brentford after 12 minutes.
WALDEN for Luton after 46 minutes.
O'ROURKE for Luton after 50 minutes.
LAZARUS for Brentford after 51 minutes.
O'ROURKE for Luton after 53 minutes.
O'ROURKE for Luton after 57 minutes.
O'ROURKE for Luton after 66 minutes.
WALDEN for Luton after 82 minutes.

trainer to him again and came out of goal to limp on the right wing and to be replaced by Jones.

Immediately the Town increased their lead after 66 minutes, when Jones was called upon to perform his first task. In the event it was a close-range shot by McKechnie with which he had to deal.

He made a hash of it and could only push the ball out and in fact it was rolling behind him until O'ROURKE came up to make absolutely certain by banging the ball over the line.

Probably it was a moot point whether O'Rourke actually got



there before the ball was in, but it looked from the stand as if he did so.

So O'Rourke's personal tally had now risen to four in 17 minutes.

Immediately after this Brodie limped off the field, and it looked as if he had damaged his back. Brentford fought back, and it took a super save by Baynham at full length to keep out a fine drive by Lazarus.

With the Town coming back again, McKechnie, seeking to bore towards goal from the left wing, was badly brought down by Higginson only a foot or so outside the penalty area, and had to receive attention before he could continue.

Reid took the free kick, belted it low into the wall of defenders and it came to McKechnie whose own drive suffered a similar fate.

A free kick for a foul on Lazarus by Bramwell, gave ten-men Brentford a chance to make some ground, but the Town covered up well in defence.

Then, O'Rourke, as eager as

ever, had his feet chopped from under him.

In the main though, the Town were in command now, keeping the ball at the Brentford end and Jones did well to save a drive from Reid.

Brentford came back and Bramwell made a fantastic headed save off the goal line from a drive by Block that seemed booked for the top corner of the net.

There was Brentford pressure at this stage, during which a shot by Smith hit the defensive wall in the end. Baynham snatched the ball away from a crowd of players.

Pacey was severely shaken in a tackle and received some delayed attention after which he was able to carry on.

Then the Town swung back to the attack and scored their sixth goal through WALDEN with a rising drive from the edge of the penalty area that left deputy goalkeeper Jones completely baffled by its speed and direction.

This came eight minutes from the end and set the seal on the jubilation of the Luton fans, who, since the goal rush had begun, had been making full use of their bells and rattles.

There was very nearly another goal to the Town, when after a movement in which Reid, McKechnie and Walden took part, Walden crashed the ball against the face of the bar from where it rebounded to safety.

Again Brentford hit back and a great save by Baynham prevented McAdams from reducing their arrears.

HITTING BACK

Brentford still had the strength to hit back and they nearly added to their score through McAdams who hooked the ball in and first Bramwell and then Caleb kept it from crossing the line.

Baynham had to go down quickly to keep out a shot from Lazarus who was now holding a roving commission with the now on the right wing.

Again Baynham was in, pulling down a long centre, Ward, and O'Rourke over after another quick Result:

BRENTFORD
LUTON 6