

O'NEILL AGAIN A MENACE TO TOWN

'Handling In Two Of The Goals" Say Town Players By CHILTERN

BOURNEMOUTH 3, LUTON TOWN 1

ALAN O'NEILL seems to make a habit of scoring goals against the Town. Last season, at Plymouth, he helped to send them down to defeat with a brace and handed out similar medicine at Dean Court on Saturday.

However, afterwards, the Town players contended that, in scoring each of his goals, he had used a hand, and I certainly go along with them so far as the final goal which came in the last minute, was concerned.

About the second, I was too far from the scene to judge, but two of our defenders said that there had been handling. So it was really O'Neill's lucky day because when his first goal came the ball went through a crowd of players and went into the net off the inside of the post.

Doubts about the authenticity of two of their goals apart, Bournemouth won because they made much better use of their scoring chances and the Town were left to ponder afterwards on what might have been.

At least four, perhaps five, reasonably good opportunities were allowed to slip by, otherwise they would have continued their recent career of giant-killers.

After a not too promising start, they were a goal down in eight minutes when Crickmore came into the game for the first time, located in a centre that had Baynham anchored on his goal-line and COUGHLIN, with a downward header, sent the ball wide of Baynham, who did not move.

Two minutes later, the balance was adjusted when REID collected a pass in midfield and made a bee-line for the home goal. When he was about 25 yards from it, he let go a terrific drive that clipped the under-part of the bar and smacked against the net with a bang.

O'ROURKE'S MISS

Another bright bit of work by Reid should have led to the Town going ahead four minutes later because he took a pass from McKechnie and sent across a hard centre to which O'Rourke, from four yards out, got a foot and sent the ball spiralling over the top of the bar.

A goal at that stage could have seen the Town poised for victory, so that it was a tragic miss, specially as O'NEILL restored the Bournemouth lead seven minutes from half-time.

Much of the second half play was of a scrappy nature, but the Town again had their chances. O'Rourke shot over from a good position, Walden headed just wide and Lownds should have levelled matters in the dying minutes.

A cross by Walden found him unattended about ten yards from goal, with only Best to beat, but he hesitated, appeared to tread on the ball which was then booted for a corner.

DID TOWN SCANT JUSTICE

Then came the final blow from O'NEILL which gave a completely untrue picture of the way in which the game had gone and did scant justice to the determined fight which the Town had made.

More strength on the wings, particularly on the left, would have helped, because Riddick looked very much out of place and, although Walden improved in the second half, he tended to come inside far too much.

Best of the forwards was Reid who, even though former Town player, Groves, had quite a good game, was always prominent, but O'Rourke, apart from the chances he missed, did not have much to show for a lot of hard work.

In recent matches, McKechnie has been running into trouble when there has been no need and the same tendency was there in this match, so that he found himself shut out continually.

There was strength in the

middle line in which Lownds played an outstanding part with a fine display of driving power and Caleb overcame a slow sort of start in which he seemed to have difficulty in settling down, to become quite dominant afterwards.

Once again, Pacey's generalship was there for all to see, even if his distribution was not all it might have been. Behind them, McBain stamped out the early threat of Crickmore to become a menace and Bramwell came out well from his duel with Bumstead.

Baynham's one mistake cost the first goal, but otherwise he could not be faulted and he was particularly certain in dealing with high crosses.

BOURNEMOUTH: Best; Farmer, Keith; Groves, Gater, Bolton; Bumstead, Woods, Coughlin, O'Neill, Crickmore.

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

Referee: K. H. Burns, Dudley.
Attendance: 9,479.