

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Despite their half-time lead Bournemouth always looked in danger of losing a point. Luton threw everything into a series of desperate sorties in the second half.

"It was a policy which was nearly rewarded when Bournemouth skipper Farmer cleared off the line from Pacey. It was left to O'Neill to put the result beyond doubt when he evaded despairing tackles to ram the ball in with a minute to go."—"Sunday Express."

"Luton fought back strongly in the closing stages when Bournemouth had several narrow escapes, and they might have salvaged a point if Lownds had not missed an easy chance.

"Luton's fate, however, was sealed in the last minute when O'Neill again beat Baynham from a square pass by ex-Luton player John Groves."—"News of the World."

"John Groves was the Bournemouth player who shattered his old club's hopes of collecting two much-needed points. He played a blinder, being here, there and everywhere to make timely interceptions and set his own forwards on the attack.

"His quick thinking led to Bournemouth's third goal as he squared the ball for O'Neill to round centre-half Caleb and beat Baynham."—"The People."

"Bournemouth picked up their seventh point in four games against Luton. But the result was in doubt until a minute from the end when they scored for the third time.

"Until a minute from the end Luton always threatened to steal a point. But then Alan O'Neill side-stepped Luton defenders to hammer the ball in."—"Sunday Mirror."

"Taking the initiative soon after the start, Bournemouth were given the lead by centre-forward Coughlin in the eighth minute, but they only held on to it until opportunist John Reid let fly a stinging shot from 25 yards two minutes later to level the score.

"Luton forwards, encouraged by this success, gave Bournemouth's close-knit defence—in which recent signing Dick Keith from Newcastle was the king-pin—several difficult moments, especially when O'Rourke missed a sitter after about 30 minutes play."—"Sunday Telegraph."

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 Town 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 to go 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, floated 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 stanchion.

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, especially 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.