

BAYNHAM WAS AGAIN A CUP-TIE HERO

Town Defence Held Firm In A Tough Encounter

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, GILLINGHAM 0

THAT two consecutive Cup-ties should take such a parallel course is an amazing coincidence, but both in this match and the previous one with Southend, the Town defence took a hammering, absorbed it, and hung on to a first half lead.

In each game, the hero was Baynham, who has been right back in International form after his return to the team after being dropped for a brief period.

Some of his saves in this tough, muddy encounter bordered on the uncanny and as he did with Southend, he frustrated the Gillingham forwards completely.

Certainly, he took adequate revenge for having had to pick the ball out of the net five times at Gillingham recently, a circumstance that caused him to lose his place.

Just twice was he beaten, the first coming before half-time when Green put the ball into the net from an offside position, and in the second half when a shot by Farrall was stopped on the goal-line by McBain.

Those occasions apart, he was unbeatable, and in the second half, particularly, he stopped a barrage of shots from all sorts of ranges and angles.

The all-important goal came in the 25th minute from RIDDICK, who quickly killed the ball from a corner and rammed it into the corner of the net before the Gillingham defence really knew what was going on.

Immediately before that, he had forced Simpson to make a flying save from a 25-yards range shot which deserved to count as a goal.

Gillingham played it hard and tough and there was a sort of ruthless efficiency about their approach, which came as no surprise to the Town, who had been adequately briefed about what they had to expect.

Particularly tough was Burgess, who made a series of crunching tackles on McKechnie, whom he was penalised for fouling on seven occasions and, in addition, had his name taken.

ROUGH TREATMENT FOR McKECHNIE

It was to the credit of McKechnie that he kept plugging away in the face of such treatment and although he had the beating of Burgess on the ground, he seldom gained the chance of a clear-cut shot at goal, though there were a couple of occasions in the second half when he delayed too long and was robbed.

There was tremendous pressure from Gillingham in the second half when they had the chances to have made a replay certain.

Twice Rackstraw shot over from a good position, and Gibbs from point-blank range somehow hit the ball against the bar when a goal was on the cards.

But dominating everything was Baynham's brilliance, and he received good cover from a defence that benefited from the changes which had been made at wing-half.

Here, the experience of Pacey, with Baynham, the only survivor of the Cup Final team of 1959, was invaluable and there was a much better build-up out of defence, with Reid settling down quite well on the other flank than has been the case.

CALEB WAS ON TOP

Caleb, who had been given something of a run-around by Green in their previous encounter, showed that he had learned a thing or two, so that little was seen of his dangerous leader.

Both McBain, who was injured twice in the first half and had stitches inserted in a cut over his left eye later, and Jardine fought like terriers to subdue two dangerous wingers.

While there was no real evidence of a measure of increased punch, the forwards did not do it all a bad job and there was at least some method about their play.

From Riddick there was a continuance of his recent improvement, and I feel that he will be

of most use to the Town in an inside-forward position.

Considering the circumstances and the importance of the occasion, the gamble of playing Rioch at inside-left in only his second senior game paid off, and Whittaker was more effective than Pleat, who did not come into it until the closing stages, during which he cracked the ball against a post.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McBain, Jardine; Pacey, Caleb, Reid; Pleat, Riddick, McKechnie, Rioch, Whittaker.

GILLINGHAM: Simpson; Hudson, Hunt; Arnott, Burgess, Farrall; Newman, Gibbs, Green, Rackstraw, Meredith.

Referee: R. Tinkler, Boston.
Attendance: 5,968.