

GOALS GALORE FOR TOWN FANS AGAIN

Barnsley's brave fight after early hammering

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 5, BARNSELEY 4

IF goals are what the football supporter wants most, then the attendances at Kenilworth Road should begin to soar after the last two matches on the ground.

The seven-goal thriller against Doncaster on Thursday was followed by another high-scoring affair in which the Town did not take full advantage of the tremendous start they made by scoring four times in the first 19 minutes, during which period they cut through the Barnsley defence with almost ridiculous ease.

Their football at that stage was some of the best we have seen from a Town team for a long time and it would have tested many more disciplined defences than that of Barnsley.

But the most pleasing thing was the way in which the chances, having been created were accepted because part of the Town's recent trouble has been that they have been unable to apply the finishing touches to their moves.

However, as if to underline that everything cannot go right at the same time, this new-found ability to make the most of scoring opportunities, has been accompanied by an unfortunate tendency to make gifts of goals to the opposition.

Fortunately, in the last two matches, there has just been a credit balance, but to concede seven goals in two home games is frankly disappointing.

Part of the trouble on Saturday, stemmed from a note of over confidence that crept in in midfield and Barnsley were allowed to make what amounted to a remarkable recovery, even though they were not really within striking distance of saving a point.

PURPLE PATCH MARKSMEN

Marksmen during that early Town purple patch were STARK (2 minutes), WHITTAKER (11), READ (12) and O'ROURKE (19) and the first reply for Barnsley came after 23 minutes from BETTANY.

When FERGUSON further reduced the arrears after 39 minutes, Barnsley reached the interval in a much better position than had seemed possible.

First part of the second half produced nothing like the earlier marksmanship and it was not until 17 minutes from the end that READ obtained the fifth goal, only for the visitors to hit back again through KERR.

Then Kerr was injured in going perilously close to scoring again, and it was in injury time and with the substitute, Murphy, on the field that Barnsley rounded off the scoring with one from FERGUSON after a bad mistake by Tinsley.

GAP LEFT DOWN THE MIDDLE

Part of the Town's defensive troubles stemmed from the way in which Kerr contrived to pull Rivers out of the middle, which left a gap despite the attempts at covering by Reid and Moore.

So far as the wings were

concerned, the more danger came from Hewitt, whom Thomson could not subdue completely, but Jardine held a tight grip on Earnshaw. Blame for two of the goals was laid at Tinsley's door and he was not quite so confident as he can be.

Without doubt, the most dangerous forward, particularly in the first half, was Whittaker because O'Rourke, closely shadowed and too often receiving the ball in the air, was given few opportunities.

Much the same applied to Harber, who could have been brought more into the game, but Read again needed careful watching and he is proving quite an awkward customer to opposing defences.

There was a bright enough start by Stark, but his effectiveness was decreased, not only because he did not release the ball quickly enough, but because too much of his distribution was faulty.

LUTON TOWN: Tinsley; Thomson, Jardine; Reid, Rivers, Moore; Harber, Read, O'Rourke, Stark, Whittaker.

BARNSELEY: Ironside; Parker, Brookes; Jackson, Swallow, Duerden; Earnshaw, Bettany, Kerr, Ferguson, Hewitt.

Referee: R Aldous, Ipswich.
Attendance: 5,948.