

FLYING START, BUT TOWN FORCED TO

FIGHT ALL WAY

Barnsley hit back in nine-goal spree

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 5, BARNSLEY 4

EVERYTHING combined to make this the occasion for the Town's biggest crowd of the season.

There was the memory of the attractive match on Thursday, plus a bright sunny afternoon and some strong opposition in Barnsley, one of the clubs who accompanied the Town into the fourth division at the end of last season.

Barnsley have taken to their new surroundings so well that before this match they were fourth in the table, three points ahead of the Town, who however, have a match in hand.

After their draw at Chester on Wednesday Barnsley were unchanged, but the Town were forced to make an alteration because Jimmy Gibson was unfit. His place at outside-right went to Billy Harber, having his first serious match for nearly six weeks, after nursing a painful ankle injury. Despite the distance, there was quite a cluster of supporters from Barnsley.

When Barnsley won the toss



BILLY STARK . . . a goal in two minutes.

and chose to defend the Oak Road end there was an optimistic movement by the Barnsley fans to the other end.

But in two minutes the Town were a goal up through STARK, who headed home from a corner by Harber. Just as O'Rourke had not been marked when he got his third goal on Thursday, so the Barnsley defence allowed Stark to go loose, and his header deceived Ironside completely.

Ironside was in trouble again, this time when he was charged by Read and lost possession, but the ball rolled for a corner which was cleared.

DANGEROUS QUICK THRUSTS

Barnsley were looking dangerous in their quick thrusts, but were not being allowed to reach close quarters and were showing a tendency to be caught in the offside trap.

Even so, Barnsley were mak-

ing much of the running at this point, with the Town so far being unable to cash in on their flying start.

A late tackle by Thomson on Hewitt brought a free kick and a most remarkable escape for the Town. Kerr squared the ball in front of an empty net and it went to Earnshaw who did the same thing, before Rivers suddenly shook off what seemed to be general paralysis and kicked clear.

Even then the ball came back, with the defence all over the place, but this time Tinsley was in position.

In the next minute, the 11th, the Town suddenly broke away to score again, through WHITTAKER. It was a brilliant individual effort. He picked up a pass from Harber midway in the Barnsley half and suddenly veered to his left.

In doing so he took the Barnsley defence with him, then turned inside, at speed and let go a low drive that a Barnsley defender tried to kick away, possibly unsighted Ironside in doing so, and the ball found its way inside the far post.

A minute later came the third Town goal, this time from READ, who applied the finishing touch in unmistakable style to a knee-high centre by Whittaker, who was again in top form.

So far the Town had given an object lesson in the way to accept scoring opportunities, because their territorial advantage had certainly not amounted to such a margin. Naturally enough, Barnsley looked a bit disconcerted about all this.

NO STOPPING THE TOWN

There was no stopping the Town forwards and in the 19th minute O'ROURKE became the fourth forward to get his name in the scoring list.

Again, it was a solo affair, with O'Rourke collecting a loose ball, controlling it, and then moving off at speed that baffled the Barnsley defenders before finally placing it low into the far corner of the net,

TEAMS

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

BARNSELY: Ironside; Parker, Brookes; Jackson, Swallow, Duerden; Earnshaw, Bettany, Kerr, Ferguson, Hewitt. Substitute: Murphy.

Referee: Mr. R. Aldus, of Ipswich.

well out of the reach of Ironside.

This Barnsley defence was having a shocking time, and were in dire trouble every time the Town forwards moved in force. Harber might well have completed what could have been a record of every forward scoring, midway through the first half, for he had a chance close in but it bounced awkwardly for him and he put it too high.

Then came some reward for Barnsley in the 23rd minute, when a through pass found the Town middle untenanted, and BETTANY from an unmarked position went through to beat Tinsley with a well-placed shot.

There was more action at the Barnsley end when Jardine, backing up the attack, put the ball inches too high. Then with Barnsley hitting back, Tinsley had to come well out of his goal to throw himself at the feet of Ferguson and gather with some difficulty.

BARNSELY ATTACK HITS POST

Next, Rivers handled the ball to stop a cross reaching Kerr, in an open space. But the free-kick was wasted, and in fact the ball was booted out of the ground. Barnsley kept on the attack with a new ball, and Hewitt struck the outside angle of the woodwork. But Tinsley was close enough to make certain.

This Barnsley defence was looking harassed whenever the Town were on the move, and Swallow made no bones about kicking the ball for a corner when Moore flashed it down the middle to O'Rourke. But neither was the Town defence

How the goals came

STARK for Luton after two minutes.

WHITTAKER for Luton after 11 minutes.

READ for Luton after 12 minutes.

O'ROURKE for Luton after 19 minutes.

BETTANY for Barnsley after 23 minutes.

FERGUSON for Barnsley after 39 minutes.

READ for Luton after 73 minutes.

KERR for Barnsley after 76 minutes.

after 89 minutes.

FERGUSON for Barnsley

looking happy under pressure. There was a chance of a fifth goal when Stark pushed the ball to O'Rourke who teed it up for Whittaker just inside the penalty area.

Unfortunately it fell to his wrong foot, and by the time he had manoeuvred it to his left, Brookes's tackle took much of the speed off his shot, and Ironside was content to edge it around for a corner.

There should certainly have been another goal for the Town when Read, beating the off-side trap, was left with only Ironside to beat. Probably a more experienced player would have taken the ball much nearer to goal before shooting, but Read's attempt missed the post by a foot.

Barnsley were in luck when a free kick by Whittaker for a foul on Stark flew across the face of the goal before striking Brookes standing on the goal line, and being deflected into safety.

This Town defence was not looking at all happy, and it was not surprising when they conceded a second goal after 39 minutes through FERGUSON. Again, there was the initial gap when Kerr sent away Hewitt, whose shot beat Tinsley and struck the crossbar. It bounced back, and all Ferguson had to do was nod it into an empty net.

Barnsley were obviously seeing some hope of reprieve. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 4
BARNSELY 2

So the Town began the second half in a less advantageous position than they should have done after their flying start, and there was a hint of trouble when Ferguson brushed aside a tackle by Moore and brought Tinsley full-length, but the whistle had gone for a foul.

There was a counter by the Town when O'Rourke stretched to reach a high cross, but he could get no force behind the ball.

Attempts by the Town to recapture their mood of the first half were being frustrated by inaccurate passing which was being intercepted.

Failure to control the ball by Stark left Duerden with a clear shot, but he drove just wide of the post. Barnsley kept peering away, and Thom-

son was not getting a chance to bring the ball back into play.

The excitement of the match was pretty uniform, with little in the goalmouth incident. A free kick was taken by Kerr, and from it finished out of play as Barnsley harassed by two

THE FIRST SURES

O'Rourke was not getting a chance to bring the ball back into play. The Barnsley defence was obviously bored in mind his re-iteration and played strictly safety first.

The Town were trying to use O'Rourke's striking power but most attempts to find him down the middle were being cut off and the Town's passing generally had deteriorated. Dribbling back towards his own goal, Whittaker got the Town in trouble, but all was well because Hewitt's centre was cut out by Tinsley, and in any case Ferguson was

aside. Read was just too late in arriving on the scene to make contact with a centre by

9-10-65 O'Rourke, and Ironside beat him to it.

Then Barnsley swung back into the attack with Parker in close support, and it was as well Jardine was on hand to coolly push the ball back to Tinsley.

A firm tackle by Thomson stopped Hewitt but conceded a corner, from which Rivers missed his kick and there was a scramble.

Straight from this the Town made a positive attack when O'Rourke swung the ball to the unmarked Whittaker, who tried from all of 20 yards, but Ironside threw himself to his right to save.

The Town's passing was still most inaccurate and they were no longer causing any extensive problems to the Barnsley defence. Barnsley were still popping up dangerously.

Then, after 73 minutes, came the goal that the Town sorely needed to settle them down. READ was the scorer and it was a spectacular effort.

TOWN'S JOY SHORT-LIVED

Tinsley cleared upfield and Moore pushed the ball on to Read who was in the inside-left position. Brushing off Parker's challenge the inside-right moved inside and let go a shot that flew over Ironside and smacked firmly into the back of the net.

But the Town's joy lasted for exactly three minutes.



READ . . . converted a centre.



O'ROURKE . . . a solo effort.

before Barnsley nudged themselves back into the game by reducing the arrears.

The goal followed a free-kick for a foul by Rivers on KERR, and it was the centre-forward who applied the finishing touch to the well-placed kick by Brookes, by heading the ball out of the reach of Tinsley.

Another free-kick put the Town goal in jeopardy, and it needed a fantastic save by Tinsley. Then he took a fierce drive from Ferguson.

With four minutes to go O'Rourke was injured but was soon all right again.

Now the Town were concentrating on keeping possession of the ball in midfield.

Then there came a quick Barnsley burst. Tinsley came right out of his goal to challenge Kerr, who forced the ball past the goalkeeper, but Rivers kicked off the line. There was a hold-up while Kerr was attended to, and Tinsley had hurt his hand again.

A stretcher was summoned for Kerr and although it was now injury time the substitute Murphy prepared to come on.

Kerr's legs had been tied together which seemed to indicate a suspicion of a fracture.

With what could only be seconds left, Barnsley got their fourth goal through FERGUSON as the result of a

mistake by Tinsley. A shot from Bettany bounced off his chest.

Result:
LUTON TOWN 5
BARNSELY 4