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BARROW V. LUTON T.

# Our Visitors

by 'ONLOOKER'

Welcome to our visitors, Luton Town, this evening. A very keen game is anticipated in view of the League positions. Brief pen pictures of the playing staff are:

- GRAHAM CALEB—Centre Half: This youngster signed as an apprentice footballer in December, 1961, although he has three 'A' levels. He settled down very well and showed such promise that he was offered Full Professional Registration in April, 1963. He has since appeared in the First Team on a number of occasions.
- RICHARD EDWARDS—Full Back: Was recommended by a local Scout, and signed Amateur Forms in October, 1963. He gained his place in our Combination side immediately and held it throughout that season. He was offered professional terms in June, 1964, and is now an established regular.
- BARRY FRY—Inside Forward: Was signed during the summer on a two months' trial. Born in Bedford, he represented England, both as a Schoolboy and a Youth International. Previous Clubs were Manchester United and Bolton Wanderers.
- JIMMY GIBSON—Wing Half: He was born at Belfast, his first English Club being Newcastle United. Then, after a spell with Cambridge United, he transferred to Luton on February 2nd, 1965, when he won and retained a First Team place for the remainder of the season.
- BILLY HARBER—Forward: Joined Luton from Swindon, where he played inside forward, on a free transfer in September, 1964, but made his debut for Luton as a winger, and towards the end of last season held this position. Although his home is in Stepney, he was born practically on Luton's doorstep at Hitchin.
- FREDDY JARDINE—Full Back: Born in Edinburgh. Played for Dundee for two seasons before coming to Luton at the end of season 1960-61. He came as an outside left, but was successfully converted to a full back, where he figured last season in 32 first team games.
- HOWARD KETTLEBOROUGH—Outside Right: Howard graduated through our Youth Scheme, during which time he played on a number of occasions for Bedfordshire. He signed as a part-time professional in July, 1965. A native of Sandy, who shows great possibilities.
- TOMMY McKECHNIE—Inside Forward: Born at Glasgow and came here direct from Rob Roy (Scotland) at the end of season 1960-61. Played in the first team consistently in the past, except when injury prevented him from appearing.
- JOHN MOORE—Wing Half: A newcomer to Luton, having been signed from Motherwell in May, 1965. He was recommended by the Club's Scottish Representative, who forcasts a bright future for him in English Football.

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#### OUR VISITORS—continued

JOHN O'ROURKE-Centre Forward: Was previously with The Arsenal and Chelsea, from whom the club signed him on a free transfer in December, 1965. He immediately made his mark at Luton and scored 22 goals in 23 League appearances. He has also played for London School Boys and the England Youth Team. Last season he was dogged by injuries.

TED PHILLIPS—Centre Forward: Is well known for his high speed kicking and hard shooting. First came into prominence with Ipswich Town, was later transferred to Leyton Orient. Luton secured him in February, 1965, putting in twelve appearances and securing eight goals. A native of Colchester.

DAVID PLEAT—Outside Right: Luton paid a big fee to Nottingham Forest at the beginning of the 1964-65 season and David has played regularly in the first team ever since. He played for the England Youth Team alongside O'Rourke and Whittaker. He can be a speedy and

direct type of winger and is popular with the crowd.

TONY READ-Goalkeeper: Born at Haydock. His first club was Sheffield Wednesday, and in 1964 he left them to go to Peterborough, for whom he also played at centre forward. He was transferred to Luton in March, 1965, but unfortunately, owing to a broken bone in his foot, he was unable to play last season. With his adaptability on the field, it remains to be seen which will prove to be his better position.

JOHN REID-Inside Forward: Previously played for Bradford and Northampton, to whom the club made a substantial transfer fee in November, 1963. He has settled-down well at

Luton and is a tireless and energetic worker.

GORDON RIDDICK-Inside Forward: Turned Professional in April, 1961, following a short period of Apprenticeship. Tall, with good ball control and a very good shot, much is expected of this lad as he gains more experience. He has already made several First Team

appearances.

- BRUCE RIOCH-Inside Forward: Although born at Aldershot, he was brought up in Luton, and first attracted Luton's-attention when playing for Luton Schoolboys. He also had trials for the England Schoolboys' team. He signed Apprentice Professional in August, 1963, and Full Professional in September, 1964. Is thought to have a bright future ahead of him, and it is hoped further honours will come his way. He has already appeared in the First Team.
- ALAN RIVERS-Half Back: Born at Portsmouth, he migrated to this area and was recommended to us in 1961. Progressed through out Junior Teams and signed full professional forms in January, 1964. Is a very well-built lad who can also play with success at Centre Forward.
- ALAN SLOUGH-Full Back: Another Luton boy who has graduated through the ranks of Schoolboy, amateur, and apprentice professional. He gave very good displays last season, and was offered full terms in May, 1965, and he is another boy on whom the Club will pin its faith for the future. Can also play with distinction at wing half and inside forward; in fact he gained County Representative honours as an Amateur in the latter position.

COLIN TINSLEY-Goalkeeper: Born at Middlesborough, his first Club being Grimsby Town, then on to Exeter City before joining Luton in August, 1963. He made regular appearances in the First Team last season, and established himself as first choice.

BOBBY THOMSON-Full Back: Born at Menstrie in Scotland. He first came into prominence with Partick Thistle, and was later transferred to Liverpool for a big fee. Luton secured his services from the latter Club on the 2nd August, 1965.

RAY WHITTAKER-Outside Left: A Londoner from Bow, his only other Club being The Arsenal. He gained England Youth International Honours with John O'Rourke in 1962 and 1963. Signed in March, 1964, he went straight into the first team and held his place for the remainder of the season.

MATT WOODS-Centre Half: A native of Skelmersdale, Lancashire. His first club was Blackburn Rovers, for whom he made 126 out of a possible 128 appearances, including a Cup Final, before going to Australia in 1963. Immediately upon his return to this country, Luton secured his services.

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#### BY CLUBMAN.

Tonight we welcome Luton Town to Holker Street for what must be their first ever League match at the ground, and it should certainly be a game to remember.

Relegated at the end of last season, Luton made a very quiet start to the present term and it looked as if they were in for a lengthy spell in the Fourth Division.

However, once they found their feet and discovered just what was needed to bring success in this Division, they started a steady climb up the table and now they are within striking distance of a hasty return to the Third Division.

They are one of the seven teams that must consider themselves still in with a great chance of promotion and they are in the happy position of having games in hand on the half dozen ahead of them.

But Luton must realise that our boys could also be in that number if they are capable of finishing the season with a winning run, for several of the teams at the top are now wilting under the pressure.

The Luton record suggests that they play a very open game, but this has not brought them too much success in away games, earning only 13 points from 18 games, with four victories and five draws.

So tonight they will be out to improve on that record while the Barrow players will be out to add to the impressive record they have against the top sides—and our lads will also know that victory is essential if our diminishing promotion hopes are to be kept

Whether we make it or not, it has to be admitted that this has been a great season as far as the Holker Street Club is concerned, for we were in the depths of despair eighteen months ago with a financial crisis and then finished the season in the bottom four, but tremendous steps in the right direction have been taken since then.

An interesting end to the season is ensured with the news that we have been drawn at home in the final of the Lancashire Senior Cup. Having beaten strong second strings fielded by Liverpool, Bury and Blackpool to reach this stage, our lads will not let us down when they face a Burnley team anxious to maintain this handsome trophy. Burnley have won the trophy four times out of the last six years.

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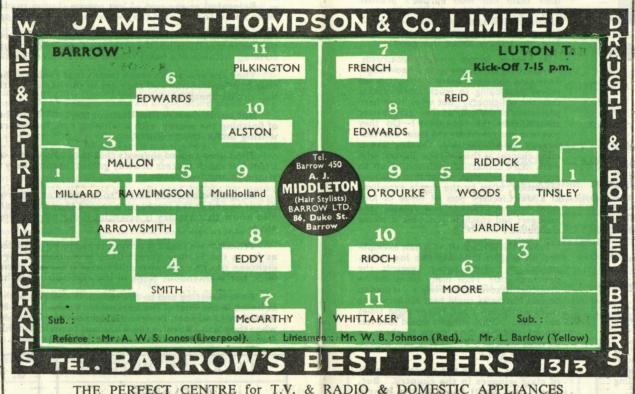
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# **NUMBER FORMATIONS**

FRANK TAYLOR

Noted Sports Columnist, "Sun," London,

Time was when American films plugged stories on "THE NUMBERS RACKET." Now we're all wondering whether English Soccer is going the same way. With all this talk of 4-2-4 and 4-3-3-, is the old game becoming all sixes and sevens to the average spectator?

The big question on every Soccer ground I have visited this season is just this:

- Do ordinary players give the fans more thrills and entertainment by going out and playing their normal game—" playing it by ear," as it were —or
- Should they marshal their skills into a team plan, which makes it so difficult for the opposition to score, that they stand a better chance of avoiding defeat?

The emphasis, to me, is ON AVOID-ING DEFEAT. I've yet to meet the team, or the manager, who likes to be beaten, but I reckon we're reaching the stage where we've got to ask ourselves "How far do we take tactics in avoiding defeat?".

We'll probably get the answer in the World Cup this Summer. I recall in Vienna when Inter-Milan beat Real Madrid in the European Cup Final, 1964, flying back to London with Danny Blanchflower. I said then, and I make no apologies now: "Interesting game! But I wouldn't walk across the street to watch that stuff. Fans don't want to pass an F.A. Coaching Certificate before they can enjoy the game."

This may seem a harsh judgement, for in truth, thousands of Italian supporters happily crossed the Brenner Pass delighted their team had won Europe's premier Soccer prize. Maybe if I had been an Italian fan I would have felt the same—but me? I was neutral. There was no flow, no artistry about this game.

As I see it, Soccer is at the crossroads. Players today have more tactical knowledge. They read the game better; they can see moves developing so much more quickly than the old-timers. But when they have possession of the ball, do they show better control than the old-timers? Do they give us as many thrills by the sheer unorthodoxy of their footwork? Do they take as many chances as the old-time players, who were more concerned with setting up an attack to score a goal, rather than retaining possession, often by the simple expedient of a short square pass of three of four yards? Such tactics may please the managers and coaches—but does it please the public?

I think the present trend is best exemplified by wingers. A chap like Joe Hulme would go hell-for-leather towards the opposing goal. How many times did he drop back to cover defensively? It used to be said Matthews could beat his back nine times out of ten; and Finney eight times out of ten. Other wingers would have less success, but they were always taught to go forward with the ball. Was this a good thing or a bad?

It might explain the present dearth of class wingers in the country. But, like I said, we'll know in the World Cup whether the new numbers formations are good for the game as a spectacle or not.

I can hardly wait to find out!

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