

BELATED GOAL SETS PATH TO VICTORY

Rioch seizes one of the few scoring chances

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN, without centre-forward Rodney Green, who was unfit, had a rare tussle to gain the mastery of Barnsley, the season's first League visitors to Kenilworth Road.

Not until a quarter of an hour from the end did they find a way round a close-covering defence, and then it was Bruce Rioch who gave them the lead.

Manager Allan Brown's hope that his players would be fit proved unfounded, because at the test, John Moore and Rodney Green had to stand down. Moore's trouble was that he aggravated a bruised calf muscle on Wednesday, and Green has fluid on the knee.

So, in came Alan Slough, who played at Wrexham last Saturday, and the deputy for Green was Micky Brown, the former Millwall centre-forward.

This left the Town somewhat short of available players, and there was haste just over half-an-hour before kick-off time to wire the Football League and register Dennis Walker, who is on trial from West Ham, by whom he has been given a free transfer. Walker was then nominated as substitute.

Barnsley fielded the team beaten at Middlesbrough in the League Cup.

Despite the sunny afternoon, the crowd was disappointingly thin ten minutes before the kick-off.

KISSING A MAIDEN

Continuing the line of gimmicks that are coming into football these days, the match ball was presented to the referee by one of five maidens from Cesar's Club. The referee kissed the donor, and the Town skipper Terry Branston was quick to follow suit, as was the Barnsley captain.

When the game started the Town went on to the attack with Rioch the prompter.

TEAMS

LUTON TN.: Read; Hare, Jardine; McDerment, Branston, Slough; French, Allen, Brown, Rioch, Whittaker. Substitute: Walker.

BARNSELEY: Wood; Murphy, Brookes; Bettany, Winstanley, Howard; Earnshaw, Evans, Thomas, Barton, Taylor. Substitute: Raggett.

Referee: D. Nippard, of Bournemouth.

Brown found French with an accurate pass, but the winger was ruled offside.

Wood was in action after Whittaker ended a long run by crossing. The goalkeeper had to dive to cut it out.

Brown got in a left-footed drive which narrowly missed the angle of the woodwork, after French had brought the ball inside and pushed it through.

Much more threat was coming from the Town forwards. Allen was twice prominent with his head work.

Brown next forced Wood to make a save reminiscent of his palmy days with Manchester United as he dived full-length.

TOWN'S DEFENCE IN A TANGLE

Then, for the first time, the Town defence got itself into a tangle. Jardine somewhat fortuitously extricated them from it.

Barnsley, beginning to settle down, were more in the picture, but Evans missed a good chance to give them the vital first goal by pulling the ball wide from a good position.

On the other hand, there could have been a goal at the other end when Jardine joined the attack. He sent Whittaker away and followed up the centre as it came over but he missed it with his head. The upshot was a scoring attempt by Allen that was deflected for a corner.

NEAR MISSES AT EACH END

A brilliant movement by the Town in which all the forwards except Whittaker took part led to Rioch going near to opening the score. He made a low drive that just missed the post with Wood well beaten.

At the other end in the next

minute, Read was beaten by a shot from Evans but the ball went a couple of feet wide.

The Town were superior without yet being able to get the goals, chiefly because the final pass was tending to go astray.

Neither forward line, in fact, was showing sufficient sharpness in front of goal.

Twice Rioch was pulled down, the second time barely short of the penalty area.

GOOD WORK BY BRANSTON

It was well that Branston was keeping a tight grip on Thomas, because the centre-forward was dangerous. He worried his way through, and hit the side netting.

Five minutes before half-time Rioch was hurt in a tackle but quickly recovered.

A chance then fell to Barnsley as Murphy crossed the ball into the goalmouth. Read's attempt to pick it up at full length was only sketchy, and Taylor could have forced it home had he really been alert.

Barnsley kept up the pressure but Evans shot over the top after Hare and Slough had both missed a centre by Bettany.

Barton was injured and resumed limping.

The interval arrived with the Town surviving two corner kicks. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN ... 0
BARNSELEY 0

Barton did not resume after the interval, Barnsley bringing on their substitute, Raggett.

From the start, the Town piled on pressure but were still merely looking dangerous without being able to produce goals.

So far, it had been a disappointing sort of match, with little goalmouth excitement.

Allen was lying well up in the centre-forward position, but Wood's only serious task was to catch a long-range attempt by French, which he made look elementary.

EASY CHANCE GOES ADRIFT

A bad mistake by Winstanley in mis-kicking in front of goal presented Brown with probably the easiest chance of the match, but he misjudged the bouncing ball and sent it well over.

Brown then needed attention after a tackle by Howard. The free-kick should have brought a goal, because the ball ricocheted to leave French with a chance but his header went wide of a post.

Another chance fell to Brown in front of goal, where it certainly was not the Town's day.

Rioch, attempting a sharp break, was badly obstructed by Raggett and Murphy, to bring a free-kick ten yards outside the penalty area. This was sidefooted to Rioch, whose shot hit the wall of players and finally went for a goal-kick.

RELENTLESS PRESSURE

Pressure by the Town was almost relentless.

With about 20 minutes left, it began to look as if Barnsley had settled for a draw, because they had withdrawn into deep defensive positions.

In the 75th minute the Town scored, through RIOCH, and it was probably the direct product of the new four-yards rule for carrying by goalkeepers.

Wood was harassed from a corner and made a poor clearance straight to the feet of Rioch, who met it first time.

With 12 minutes left, the Town brought on their substitute, Walker, for Jardine, who had been playing with his right thigh strapped.

Then, the Town scored again, ALLEN rocketing a terrific drive into the far corner of the net from a pass by Brown after 84 minutes.

The goals had put the crowd in a good humour, but there was no disputing that

How the goals came

RIOCH for Luton after 75 minutes

ALLEN for Luton after 84 minutes.

The Town were thoroughly on top.

Winstanley had his name taken for a foul on Rioch.

In almost the last minute, French weaved his way through to make a centre which Winstanley headed behind, and from the corner Dick Wood made a not-very-impressive punch. Result:

LUTON TOWN ... 2
BARNSELEY 0