

STARTING AS THEY FINISHED!

LUTON TOWN 3, BARROW 0

BEGINNING the season as they had finished the last, in winning vein, the Town did not have undue difficulty in overcoming Barrow, who have yet to gain any sort of success at Kenilworth Road.

Maybe the margin was not so spectacular as had been hoped, and more goals, perhaps, should have come. But it was a pretty workmanlike performance, which seems to bode well for the future.

Barrow's defence was tough, rugged and determined, and in addition their new goalkeeper, Heyes, made some splendid saves.

For my money, the outstanding performance came from the newest member of the Town staff, John Collins, bought for £10,000 from Reading in midweek. Although he has always been regarded as an inside-forward, he played as an orthodox right winger and provided a stream of accurate centres.

More than that, he laid on the first goal, scored the second, and generally looked a threat in his eagerness to have a go. On this showing, he will go some way towards ending the shortage of goals from the wings that existed last season.

Another newcomer, MacDonald, tall, strong and very promising, began at outside-left and was switched to inside-right during the second half. This may well be a pointer to the future, because his height makes him valuable in front of goal.

Certainly, the Town would seem to have made no mistake here.

Lewis had something of a thin time, including the missing of a penalty—which Collins remedied by quick thinking—and was replaced by French 25 minutes from the end.

This was obviously a most popular move with the crowd, and French, from outside-left, tantalised the Barrow defence with a show of brilliant footwork, and obviously he has staked his claim to be something more than substitute.

The other new member of the team, Ryan, looked useful. He is a hard tackler but shows some limitations in control and use of the ball, which is something that can be remedied.

There was really no stage at which the Town looked like losing their long unbeaten home record and no particular danger of any result but victory once Keith Allen had opened the score.

As always, Allen was a tremendous worker, as was Sheffield, who received something of a buffeting. Although his finishing was not all it might have been, he laid the ball off well.

In mid-field Keen became a power in the second half, and although there were some uncertain passages in defence, with Branston harassed at times, there were few occasions when Barrow looked likely scorers.

Bannister and Moore were sound defenders, and what came the way of Read, which included one or two difficult propositions, he dealt with ably.

There is, of course, the thought that Alan Slough, with his driving force, has still to come into the team.

Attendance of 12,080 was below last season's average, and is probably explained by the fact that many people are still on holiday, the weather, unsuitable for football really, and the fact that Barrow are not the most attractive team in the division!