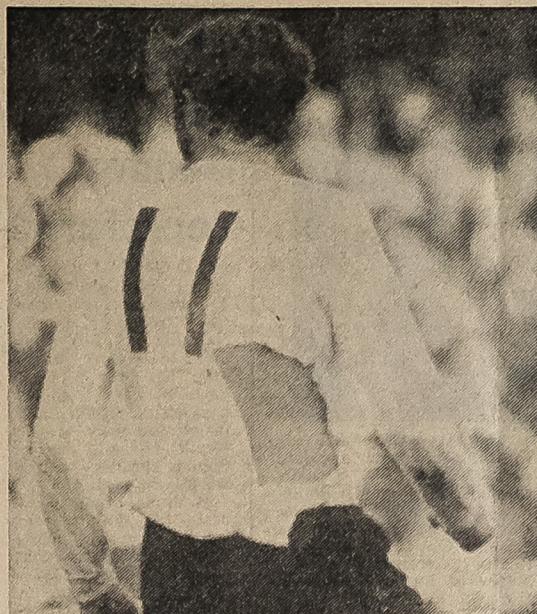


YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN

THERE are hangers-on in all walks of life, and someone in the Bolton side certainly tried it literally against the Town's nippy forward Don Givens, wearing what's left of his No. 11 shirt.

If the missing piece has become a memento in the Wanderers' dressing room, it's all they got, for they were made to surrender both points against all-conquering Town.

You can't keep a good man down, as other teams have found against Luton this season, and Don proved it, as seen below, with a flying header that made a goal to remember, to put the Town two up.



SPORT 2

Town a bit TOO cool

LUTON TOWN 2, BOLTON WANDERERS 0

FOR half-an-hour at Kenilworth Road, on Saturday, the Town began exactly where they had left off at Sheffield, completely on top, and threatening a runaway victory.

By ERIC PUGH

Then, for some strange reason, in the last quarter of an hour or so before the interval, they lost their rhythm, never to regain it wholly.

Even manager Alec Stock was puzzled about why this should happen, and it was somewhat unfortunate that it should occur before the biggest League crowd of the season, 19,055, which was 2,344 more than the previous best.

"Somehow, we went tepid after becoming two goals up, and it happened just when we wanted to impress most," he said.

Bolton misses

In the end, the result could have been closer, and Bolton might even have filched a point during a second half, in which they had the better chances.

"They had enough of them to have really shaken us," said Stock, still trying to fathom exactly what went wrong.

When NICHOLL came striding into the penalty area in the ninth minute to glide a well-placed corner by Court into the net, the Town were well on their way to both points.

In fact, Bolton's defence

was made to look a ponderous affair, and good saves by Boswell, and the woodwork in the case of a shot by Hoy, saved them before the second goal duly arrived.

Goal to remember

This was the result of a move that has proved so productive this season, consisting of the overlap down the right wing by John Ryan, and a centre at which GIVENS threw himself to connect with his head and send the ball hurtling into the back of the net.

Certainly, it was a goal to remember, but it was a peak that the Town never really attained again, though half-chances continued to crop up.

Near half-time, the Town were twice in luck during heavy Bolton pressure, with Byrom going close and Hurley having a header cleared off the line by Moore.

Twice after the interval, Givens tried hard to make the most of chances that came his way, and then there was an ominous happening at the other end when the Town defence, not so well together in this match, saw Taylor miss the far post by inches.

Enough chances

About midway through, manager Stock arrived on the trainers' bench, from which coach Jimmy Andrews, still recovering from an operation, had been a notable absentee.

A goal at that stage to Bolton could well have been disastrous and it very nearly came when Taylor beat Read and saw the ball cannon against the far post.

As their manager, Nat Lofthouse, said afterwards, "We had enough chances to have won two matches, and if you don't take them, you cannot expect to gain points."

Much of the second-half

football lacked the decision the Town have been showing so consistently and, on this occasion, MacDonald, though he always needed watching, was closely marked by Hurley and Hulme, playing as dual centre-halves.

This probably had the effect of making more room for the lively Givens, who is proving a bargain buy from Manchester United. At the moment, he is more consistent than Jimmy Ryan, who, however, contributed some flashes of brilliance.

Record in peril

There were times when it was as well that Nicholl, Slough and Moore were mostly unfaltering, otherwise the goalless "against" record in home League matches, might have been no more.

John Ryan found difficulty in coping with Taylor, and the middle of the field was not so dominated by the Hoy-Keen-Court combination, as is usually the case.

There were times under pressure when Read looked less than confident, and he came second to Boswell in the matter of cutting out cross balls.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Ryan (John), Slough; Hoy, Nicholl, Moore; Ryan (Jimmy), Court, MacDonald, Keen, Givens. Substitute: Busby.

BOLTON WANDERERS: Boswell; Ritson, Farrimond; Williams, Hurley, Hulme, Fletcher, Byrom, Manning, Phillips, Taylor. Substitute: Rimmer.

Referee: W. J. Gow, Swansea.

Ladies' golf

Mrs Murray won the silver section of a Stableford competition held by the ladies section of South Beds last week, with 37 points.

In the bronze division, Mrs King led 38 points, followed by Mrs Randall (37) and Mrs Broadbent (35).