

MIDFIELD AND ASTON THE ACES AT BURNLEY

UNRECOGNISABLE FROM the slipshod outfit that had fumbled its way to defeat at Hull only four days earlier, the Town shook even their own supporters with the style of the demolition of Burnley at Turf Moor. The midfield sparkle and John Aston's wing play left Burnley shattered.

The Lancashire side, First Division material only a few months ago, were battered into submission by a Town team that looked for goals from the first minute.

Veteran Dixie Deans, shouted on by his own tiny tartan fan-club, rapped in one goal, and 17-year-old Ricky Hill took the other with majestic power.

Before the game manager Harry Haslam had been scathing in his criticisms of midfield failings. He let the players involved know his feelings, and they responded by rolling up their sleeves and putting in twice as much effort.

Match Details

BURNLEY 1, LUTON TOWN 2

Half-time: 1-1

TOWN: Barber; Price, Buckley, Faulkner, Paul Fletcher; Chambers, Fuccillo, Hill; Husband, Deans, Aston. Sub: Smith, not needed.

BURNLEY: Peyton; Scott, Pashlev, Thomson, Noble; Rodaway, Ingham, Flynn, Summerbee; Bradshaw, Hankin. Sub: Morley, not used.

THE GOALS: Bradshaw for Burnley, 36 minutes, after Barber failed to hold a drive by Noble; Deans, 41 minutes, diving header, far post, from sliced shot by Chambers; Hill, 79 minutes, towering header from Aston's far-post cross.

ATTENDANCE: 12,228, including two coach-loads from Luton.

REFEREE: Peter Willis, County Durham; firm and positive, but not consistent.

BOOKINGS: Aston for pulling Scott's shirt; Paul Fletcher for a foul on Bradshaw.

ENTERTAINMENT: The Town provided most of it, and left Burnley supporters booing their own manager at the end.

TOWN'S LEAGUE POSITION: Eighth, one point behind top club Chelsea.

Burnley hardly knew what hit them, and bemused manager Joe Brown admitted afterwards: "On the day the better team won. Luton nearly always looked more dangerous than we did."

As with most matches, the key to success or failure was in midfield, and at Turf Moor there was a 100 per cent improvement in aggression in this department.

Brian Chambers looked as though he wanted to win the ball instead of waiting for others to do the hard work, which took some of the pressure off Fuccillo and Ricky Hill.

CHANCES

The Town knocked the ball about quickly and

3242 28/8/76
Brian Swain reports from Turf Moor

economically, and if all the chances had been taken Burnley could have been five goals down by the interval.

Jim Husband, struggling to get into the game, missed the best after Deans had drawn the goalkeeper out and laid the ball back along the six yard line.

CONTROL

The Town's defence was rarely in trouble, with Faulkner winning control in the air.

As the minutes ticked by it seemed only a matter of time before the Town hit the target, Aston had an inspired game, turning full-back Scott so often that the lad's shorts were in danger of wearing out from the inside.

In the first half-hour a shot over the bar by Flynn was Burnley's only attempt at goal. At the other end Peyton dived to catch a drive from Fuccillo, then tipped a 20-yarder from Chambers over the bar.

SAVED

Wind and pouring rain backed up the Town in the first half, and Chambers had another drive saved in a forest of defenders' legs. Peyton made a full-length save from Deans, and my only worry then was that teams who put on so much pressure but fail to score tend to become losers.

ONE DOWN

That fear loomed large when Burnley sneaked in to the lead against all the odds after 36 minutes. Skipper Peter Noble cracked in a 30-yard drive, aimed low at Barber's right. The ball was hit powerfully, bounced just in front of the diving goalkeeper, and spun back off Barber's chest as he sprawled full length.

Bradshaw helped himself to score from the rebound.

JUSTICE

The goal seemed to prove that there's no justice in football, but the Town refused to drop their heads, and five minutes later,

YOUNGSTER IS ROBBED

SOME of Burnley's followers took defeat hard — after the game a bunch of four or five bover boys grabbed an 11-year-old Luton supporter outside the ground and made him hand over his orange and white scarf. They dealt off with it before a policeman arrived on the scene to investigate the small boy's tears.

man-of-the-match Aston once more sliced open the Burnley defence.

He pulled the ball back to Chambers, on the edge of the penalty area. His shot was skied off target and was on its way past the far post. Burnley players watched in relief, but Deans, spring-heeled and quick-brained, launched himself through the air to head the ball into the net.

PRESSURE

Burnley put on more pressure after the break, when the wind was behind them, but were rarely able to create clear chances.

Scott produced the best, with a stinging drive which Barber saved well.

Aston was the main difference between the sides as he continued to tantalise Burnley's flank, and 11 minutes from time he laid on the winner.

He was beating Scott so often it looked like an action replay, as he did it once more and crossed high to the edge of the six-yard box. Hill, who had been looking tired earlier, had timed a run forward perfectly.

WINNER

Deans was already in position and might have scored, but Hill burst through, met the ball with the meat of his forehead, and powered his header into the top corner. Burnley were down and out, and Hill's winner was all the more satisfying to Luton eyes after Lancashire louts on the terraces had smeared their sport by jeering Hill because he is coloured.

LUCKY 13th

SATURDAY'S victory was a lucky 13th for the Town; it was their 13th appearance at Turf Moor in Football League fixtures, and only the second time they had won there. The previous win was in Division I in the 1937/58 season.



● JOHN ASTON

● PAUL FUTCHER

TWO BOOKED

DOUBTS about consistency were raised quietly and unofficially after the Town had two players booked at Burnley. John Aston was cautioned for tugging at full-back Derek Scott's shirt, yet earlier in the game the defender had done exactly the same to Aston and got away with it.

Mike Summerbee, full of niggles, also escaped with a wag of the finger from referee Peter Willis, while Paul Fletcher was booked for a foul on Bradshaw which was no more harmful than several that Summerbee perpetrated.



● RICKY HILL, whose superb winner at Burnley was his second goal in consecutive matches.



● THE scene that is becoming a welcome ritual for Town players: Dixie Deans earning their thanks, with acting skipper John Faulkner on the left and Steve Buckley on the right. Deans has now scored three in three league games.

1,000 MILES IN EIGHT DAYS

THE TOWN'S League Cup-tie at Sunderland meant that by the time they arrived back in Luton yesterday they had travelled 1,200 miles for three matches in eight days.

The Football League's fixtures computer provides a tough opening, with five of the first eight fixtures away from home.

After clocking up the motorway miles to Hull, Burnley and Sunderland, the next away game, at Charlton a week tomorrow, will feel like a home match.

Chelsea head the first table of the new season

WITH a 2-1 home win against Carlisle, Chelsea lead the first table of the season in Division II after all clubs have played three games. Chelsea have dropped only one point.

The Town are among seven clubs with four points, but are the last of them because of inferior goal difference, which is being used instead of goal average this season.

Early tables are notorious for giving a false impression—Carlisle topped the First Division this time two years ago, but were still relegated—and five of the seven teams above the Town have played two home games and only one away.

They include Hull, who followed up their victory over the Town a week ago with the day's biggest win in the Second Division, 4-0 at home to cup-holders Southampton.

That leaves the Saints bottom but one, with only a single point. Orient are 22nd, still waiting for their first point. They are the only team in the division yet to score a goal.

Nottingham Forest, who come to Kenilworth Road on Saturday, lost 3-1 at home to Wolves, with Gould and Daley both scoring twice. One of Daley's efforts was in the wrong net.

Chelsea's gate of 18,681 was the highest in the division. The lowest was 6,345 to see the

goalless draw between Bristol Rovers and Oldham.

Derek Hales failed to score for Charlton, who drew 1-1 with Fulham at The Valley, but Adrian Alston was on target for Cardiff in their 2-1 home win over Blackburn.

The top end of the table in Division II after Saturday's games:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Chelsea	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
Hull	3	2	0	1	7	2	4
Blackpool	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Bolton	3	2	0	1	6	4	4
Cardiff	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Oldham	3	1	2	0	4	2	4
Wolves	3	1	2	0	5	3	4
Luton Town	3	2	0	1	5	4	4