

SPORTS NEWS 1

It's not our delight on a Friday night

RESULTS from other grounds the following day put an undeserved gloss on the Town's lacklustre Friday night performance against Wrexham.

A run of nine consecutive home league victories was ended through a combination of Town mistakes and Wrexham defiance. The visitors worked hard, defended well and threatened to pinch goals on the break.

The Town's normal smoothness vanished with a rash of bad passing, although they, too, might have got the one goal that would have been enough to break the deadlock.

Wrexham played a 4-4-2 formation, with midfield men quick to break in support of attacks, and despite the absence of three injured stars created a couple of good openings which Steve Buxton wasted.

At the other end, unlucky bounces and stubborn defending kept the Town out, although substitute Frank Bunn went close to a late winner when Steve Dowman cleared his shot off the line.

The first-half injury to Mark Aizlewood forced the Town to put Bunn on in his place and reshuffled the formation, and the game died as Wrexham decided to close it up and settle for a point.

Some of their long back passes were as annoying to the crowd as the Town's own inability to win possession or to put together fluid attacking moves.

The only consolation,

**LUTON TOWN .. 0
WREXHAM ... 0**

amid the welter of bad injury news which broke over the weekend, was that unlike Watford the Town collected one more point, and few who watch them regularly believe they will play that badly very often.

MATCH DETAILS

TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Aizlewood (Bunn, 45 mins); Hill, Horton, Antic; Stein, White, Moss.

WREXHAM: Niedzwiecki; Hill, Dowman, Segielski, Bate; Ronson, Leman, McNeil, Carradus; Fox, Buxton. Sub: Hunt, not used.

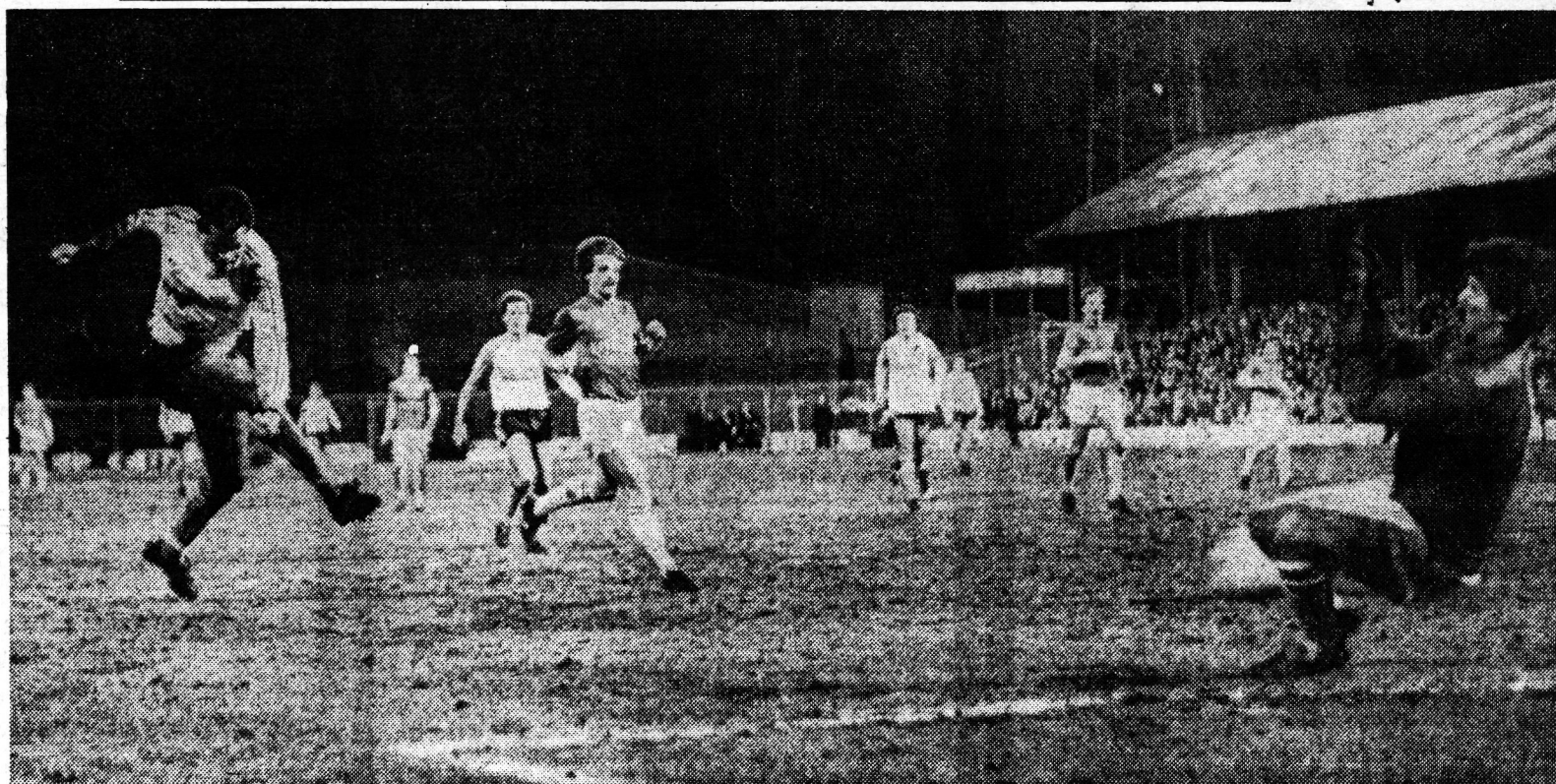
GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town nine saved and six wide; Wrexham four saved and five off target. Corners: 5-2 to the Town.

ATTENDANCE: 10,890 — barely above the Town's average so far this season.

REFEREE: Alan Gunn, Sussex.

ENTERTAINMENT: Well short of the high standards we were setting up to. The Town's most disjointed display for a long time.

Verdict on the Town's week ★ ★



● **CRACKER:** Brian Stein hammers in his second goal at Oakwell on Tuesday night, to pull the Town back to 2-2 in the 55th minute.

BARNESLEY POWER DECIDES THRILLER

THE TOWN'S lead at the top of the Second Division was trimmed to just two points when, for the third consecutive match, they failed to achieve victory at Barnsley on Tuesday night.

The Town's only consolation was that they played a part in a match crackling with entertainment and goals which delighted the crowd.

On a slippery muddy pitch, and with driving wind and rain, defences were always likely to be in trouble and in fact Barnsley won more easily than the result suggests.

They were quick and incisive in their attacks and an injury to Jake Findlay gave the Town added problems.

Fast raiding wingers kept the Town at full stretch for long periods and as well as becoming the first side to score four against the Town this season, Barnsley

**BARNESLEY 4
LUTON TOWN 3**

also saw a shot hit a post and had another "goal" disallowed.

Yet things had started brightly when Brian Stein took a pass from Kirk Stephens, tricked his marker, and placed his shot carefully to give the Town the lead after only ten minutes.

The Town played a calm and controlled game trying to ride out Barnsley's storming attacks and looking for something on the break.

The defence creaked uneasily at times and failure to clear a corner as the first half ticked into injury time led to Colin Walker heading an equaliser.

Eight minutes into the second half Walker helped himself to his second goal after Findlay weakly palmed away a cross, only for the Town to get back into the game with another glorious goal by Stein.

Raddy Antic, who replaced Lil Fuccillo for the second half, made the opening, but as Barnsley attacked in numbers, little more was seen of the

Report by Brian Swain
Pictures: Mark Richards



Town as an attacking force.

A free kick just outside the penalty area gave Ian Banks the chance to shoot Barnsley into a 3-2 lead in the 67th minute and eight minutes later it looked all over for the Town when Ian Evans made it 4-2 with a header.

Barnsley were rampant and Walker hit the post when he might have completed a hat-trick, but a lucky goal gave the Town brief hope of revival in the 80th minute.

Nicky Law, trying to head a shot by Antic out of danger put the ball into his own net instead of over the bar to make it 4-3 and the Town were lucky not to concede ano-

ther when Walker netted but was adjudged to have used his hands.

MATCH DETAILS

TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Aizlewood; Hill, Horton, Fuccillo (Antic 45); Stein, White, Moss.

BARNESLEY: Horn; Law, McCarthy, Evans, Chambers; Glavin, Banks, Mann; Walker, Aylott, Birch. Sub: Barrowclough not needed.

THE GOALS: Brian Stein 10 minutes, Colin Walker 44 minutes, Walker 53 minutes, Stein 55 minutes, Ian Banks 67 minutes, Ian Evans 75 minutes, Nicky Law, own goal for the Town, 80.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town three saved, four wide; Barnsley ten saved, nine wide, one hit the post, one disallowed for hands. Corners: 13-2 to Barnsley.

ATTENDANCE: 14,044.

REFEREE: Norman Wilson of Morecambe.

ENTERTAINMENT: Absolutely sparkling despite the result.



● **MAGIC MOMENT:** Brian Stein receives congratulations from David Moss and Steve White, with skipper Brian Horton in the background on the right, for a goal that might have earned the Town a point.



● **CARBON COPY:** Brian Stein's goals at Oakwell were nearly identical. Raddy Antic split the defence with a through-ball for the second, seen at top of the page, and this was Stein's finish for the first, from a pass by Kirk Stephens.