

TOWN SUB: David Oldfield for Dwight Marshall two minutes into stoppage time. Unused: Kim Grant and Paul McLaren. GILLINGHAM: Billy Manuel for injured Simon Ratcliffe, 26 minutes; Lennie Piper for Mark O'Connor, 72 minutes. Unused: Ian Chapman.



Full match details

THE GOALS: 0-1 23 minutes: Tony Thorpe, calm and com posed strike after intercepting a bad back pass by Steve Butler;

1-1 25 minutes: Iffy Onoura after long free kick by Richard Green was headed down by Guy Butters; 1-2 51 minutes: Tony Thorpe again, clinical angled drive from opening made by Graham Alexander's pass.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town four saved and four wide; Gillingham four saved, including an injury-time penalty by Steve Butler, and four wide.

CORNERS: 9-6 to the Town.

FOULS: Ten by each side.

OFFSIDE: Town 7 times, Gillingham 10.

BOOKED: Ceri Hughes and Neil Smith for a hand-

bags at three paces altercation. Oddly the ref took no action at the end of the game when a mass argument blew up over Andy Hessenthaler's dive to win the penalty.

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REFEREE: Paul Rejer, Tipton: Usually pretty good but had an off day at Priestfield, and so did his linesmen.

ATTENDANCE: 8,598, Gillingham's best of the season, and with about 1,000 supporting the Town.

ENTERTAINMENT: Not brilliant in footballing terms, but for Town fans it was a smashing day out, with their team proving that its football was more than a match for the thud and blunder approach by Gillingham, even if the Town's central defence looked vulnerable at times to the airborne direct long ball.