

FEUER WHAT

What they said

STEVE DAVIS: "The reception I got from the Burnley fans brought a lump to my throat."

"It was very special coming back here and playing at Burnley again."

"When my name was read out on the team sheet before the start there was a genuine cheer and that was really touching."

"I was very nervous before the game because this was my club for four years and I still have a lot of feeling for the people and the town."

"Obviously, it was a great result for us because this was such a massive game for both us and Burnley."

"It couldn't have gone better and I am just so pleased. Hopefully, we can carry on in this sort form."

"We knew how good Burnley are at home so to get three points was very good from our point of view."

"I thought we had the better of the first half and played some really good stuff. We probably deserved to be two up at the break but, at the same time, we knew we had a lot to do in the second half."

"In the second period we had to defend with our lives and had to be very disciplined to come out of the game with three points."

"It was backs against the wall and Burnley were unlucky not to get a goal at least."

"Despite the result, I am convinced Burnley are going to be up there. If not automatically, then they will definitely be in the play-offs."



DOWN TO EARTH: Clarets skipper Jamie Hoyland tries a diving header but forces another save. Pictures: NEIL JOHNSON



BURNLEY 0 LUTON
Thorpe 14, 39

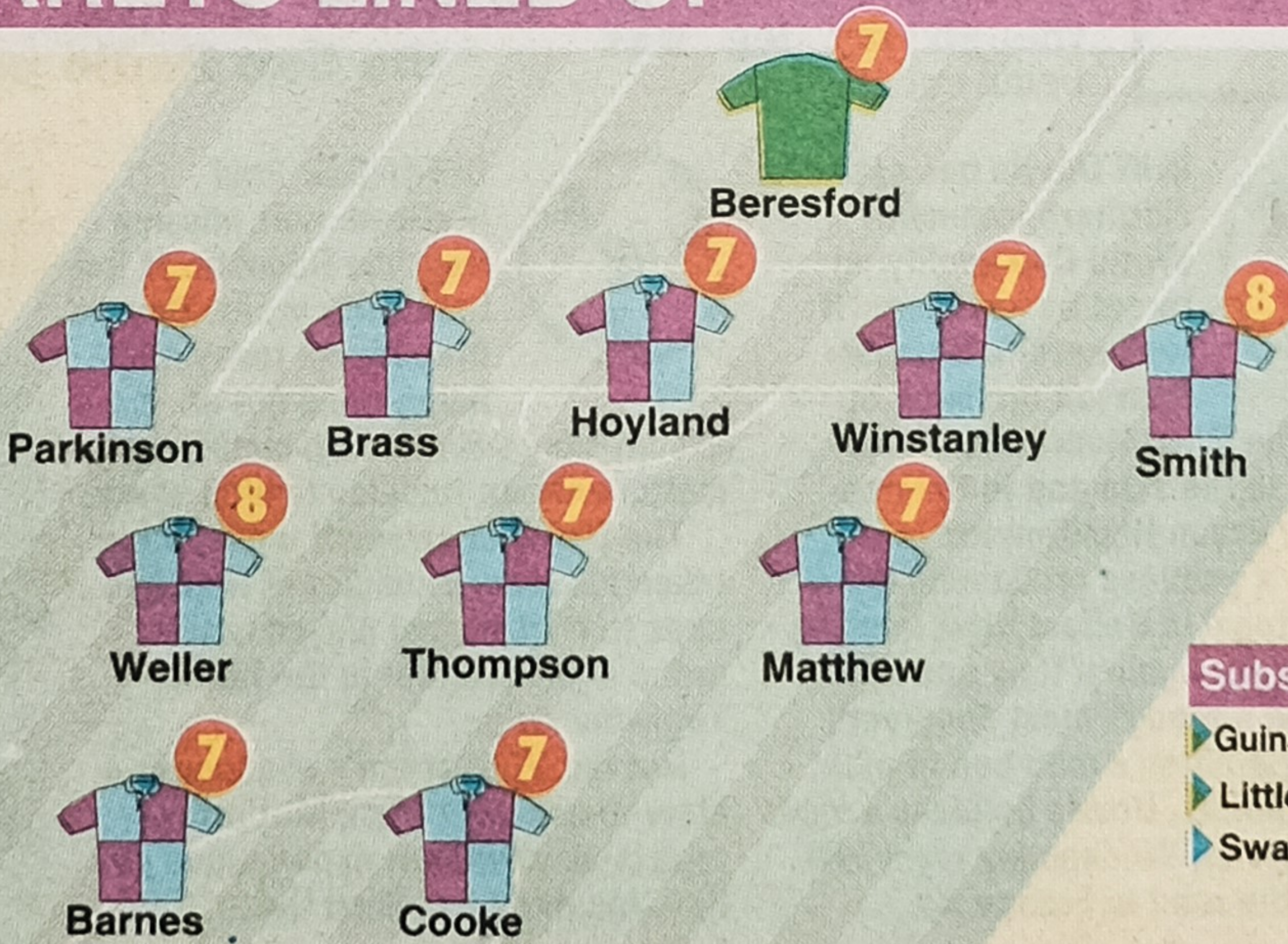
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Turf Moor
Saturday, March 29, 1997
Attendance: 15,490
Referee: Mr T Jones (Barrow-in-Furness) 6.

HOW CLARETS LINED UP



MANAGER
A Heath



Y Booked
R Sent off

Substitutes

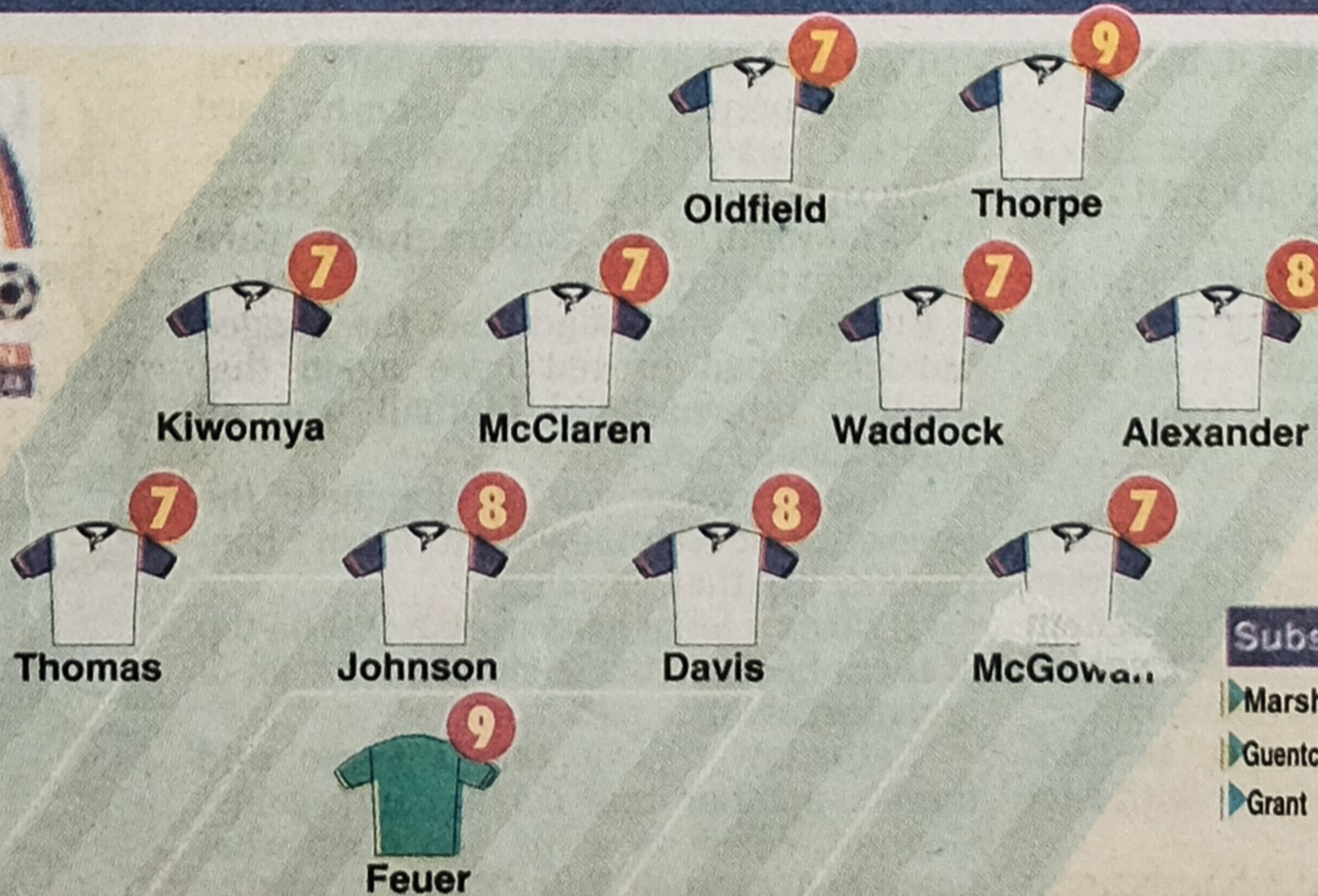
Guinan ◀ Thompson 72
Little ◀ Hoyland 80
Swan

▶ Player on
▶ Player off

HOW LUTON LINED UP



MANAGER
L Lawrence



Y Booked
R Sent off

Substitutes

Marshall ◀ Kiwomya 64
Guentchev ◀ McGowan 80
Grant

▶ Player on
▶ Player off

MatchFacts

BURNLEY	LUTON
Goal attempts	14 9
Shots on target	9 4
Shots off target	5 5
Offsides	8 6
Corners	8 3

TOP MAN



WELLER

How they stand

DIVISION TWO							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bury	37	19	10	8	54	34	67
Luton	37	18	10	9	60	39	64
Brentford	38	17	13	8	52	37	64
Stockport	35	17	10	8	50	36	61
Watford	37	15	16	6	39	27	61
BURNLEY	39	17	9	13	61	42	60
Millwall	39	16	11	12	49	47	59
Crewe	38	18	5	15	48	52	59
Bristol C	39	16	9	14	56	45	57
Walsall	38	16	9	13	46	41	57
Wrexham	37	13	17	7	43	39	56
Blackpool	38	13	14	11	46	39	53
Gillingham	38	15	8	15	46	50	53
Bournemouth	40	4	11	15	37	38	53
Chesterfield	36	14	11	11	33	31	53
Preston	40	15	6	19	43	51	51
Bristol R	39	12	11	16	40	43	47
Plymouth	38	11	13	14	42	52	46
York	38	11	11	16	40	55	44
Shrewsbury	40	10	12	18	47	66	42
Wycombe	38	11	8	19	39	50	41
Peterboro	39	8	13	18	49	69	37
Rotherham	39	6	13	20	33	55	31
Notts Co	39	5	12	22	27	52	27

Other results

Division Two: Brentford 0 Bury 2, Bristol City 0 Gillingham 1, BURNLEY 0 Luton 2, Chesterfield 0 Blackpool 0, Peterborough 1 Bristol Rovers 2, Preston 2 Notts County 0, Rotherham 1 Walsall 2, Stockport 1 Crewe 0, Watford 0 Bournemouth 1, Wycombe 3 Shrewsbury 0, York 1 Plymouth 1.

96/97

A SCORCHER

American keeper denies Clarets with dazzling display

TWO battalions of a German Panzer tank division, a double decker Ribble bus or a crazed rhinoceros would have not thrust past his impregnable defences!

It is no wonder, then, that Luton Town fans have nicknamed the man between the Kenilworth Road sticks the Jolly Green Giant. Because this colossus of a goalkeeper from America's gambling capital Las Vegas, sure lived up to his name. The 6ft 7ins frame and 15 stone bulk of Ian Feuer used every single chip on his Turf Moor roulette wheel to deny the Clarets a win. The man resembles a cross between the Incredible Hulk and the rambling Lurch from the Adams Family, but a skulking field mouse wouldn't have slipped under his gigantic trunk at Turf Moor. Feuer — who saved his first shots in anger with American amateurs Los Angeles Salsa — gave as fine a display of the goalkeeping art as I've seen in Division Two this year. And he proved the vital difference between these two authentic promotion contenders with a string of unbelievable saves. Okay, the giant Yank had his fair share of good fortune, but his monumental second half demonstration kept Burnley at bay as they threatened to swamp Luton under a tide of pressure.

Fortune

I counted a DOZEN genuine Burnley chances — but every time Feuer was in the right place at the right time to thwart a Clarets attack which swarmed around the Luton goal like a host of frenzied locusts. Diving to his left and right, tipping shots over bar and round the post, and just getting in the way of anything that moved — this was the Ian Feuer Show. Paul Weller, Andy Cooke, Damian Matthew and Paul Barnes all had a pop at the target but the big man stood between Burnley and a Lancashire League score. Feuer's handling and general presence around the penalty box would have kept the Third Parachute Regiment in check on a day when fortune, it has to be said, deserted the Clarets completely. Burnley never got the vital break they needed to breach the Luton defensive lines, and I thought they were a shade unfortunate to come away with nothing to show for their grafting endeavour. But the damage was done inside 25 minutes of a frenetic first period when Luton made the points safe in front of a remarkable 15,000 Turf Moor gate — Burnley's second best League gate of the campaign. And when you couple Feuer's dynamic display to Tony Thorpe's destructive finishing, that ultimately proved the catalyst for Luton's success.

Thorpe is destined for far greater things than the Endsleigh League Second Division, and he illustrated just why the Kenilworth Road stands are packed with scouts week in and week out. Blackburn Rovers manager-elect Roy Hodgson and caretaker Tony Parkes watched from the comfort of the Bob Lord Stand — and Thorpe must have caught their roving eyes with both Luton goals. Converted from a midfielder at the end of last season, Thorpe appears to have found his true vocation, as goals number 25 and 26 of the season hit the back of the Burnley net. Thorpe struck the first with lethal venom and converted his second with the ease of a veteran goalpoacher — and the help of a linesman's flag. Certainly, Luton's opener had more than an element of luck about it, coming as it did after Burnley had opened as the brighter team in the first quarter of an hour.

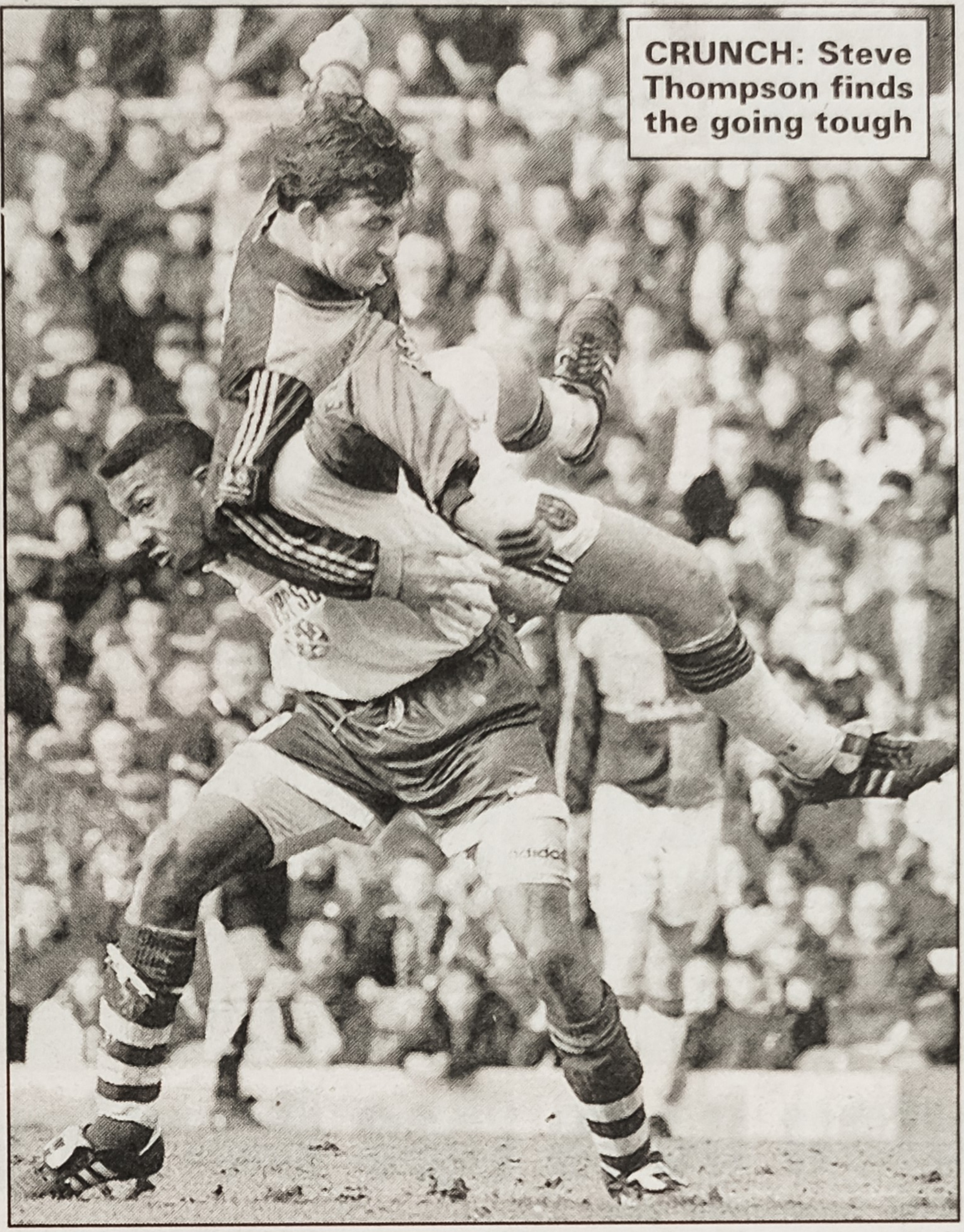
"I think somebody cleared it and it

hit Damian (Matthew) on the shoulder," recalled Thorpe. "The ball spun back to me. It dropped nicely, sat up, and I managed to pick my spot in the far corner. "The second one was a flick-on by Mitchell Thomas from a corner and I just got in front of my man and headed it in. "The Burnley players were claiming it was not a goal but it was well over the line, maybe a foot. The linesman had a good view and it was a goal. "Marlon Beresford had made a great save to deny me a minute earlier, tipping over my shot which led to the corner for the second goal, so I was really pleased." In truth, Luton won the contest in midfield, with Graham Alexander outstanding, but they were forced back into the trenches by an awesome Burnley barrage. And how Luton made it back down

TONY DEWHURST'S big match verdict

the M1 to Bedfordshire with a clean sheet in the locker, I will never know. They defended with discipline and bravery, nobody more so than ex-Clarets captain Steve Davis. But time and time again Paul Weller, who I thought was Burnley's best player, and the clever Paul Smith, revelling in the left wing-back role, tricked and teased their way into the visitors' danger zone. It left Luton pinned in their own half with the the odd counter-attack their only respite from the fearsome home pressure. But chances came and went. Mark Winstanley saw a header spin narrowly wide and Weller had a frantic appeal for a penalty turned away when it appeared Alexander had handled inside the penalty area. The hard-working Cooke was caught marginally offside on at least two occasions and, even the arrival of

Nottingham Forest loan signing Stephen Guinan, who proved a real handful for Luton, couldn't find the combination. "I'm surprised we were still in one piece at the final whistle," admitted Thorpe. "It was like the Alamo out there after half-time. "We may have rode our luck but I still think Burnley will go up. They played exceptional football in the second half but this has given us a tremendous advantage." The defeat is a hitch for the Clarets at a crucial time, concluding a stirring seven-game sequence which has taken Burnley into the thick of the promotion picture. But we've all seen what Burnley are capable of and, with the same amount of fixtures remaining, beginning at Shrewsbury tomorrow, they can still stake their claim for First Division football next season. Hopefully, though, they will not have to meet Mr Ian Feuer again before next season.



CRUNCH: Steve Thompson finds the going tough

Skill spot
WHILE Luton goalkeeper Ian Feuer kept Burnley at bay with a string of breathtaking saves, Marlon Beresford also showed his agility at the other end. One first half save, when the Burnley goalkeeper twisted and turned to deflect Tony Thorpe's chip shot on to the crossbar, proved one of the outstanding skill spots of this sizzling promotion clash.



SO CLOSE: Mark Winstanley can't find a way past Ian Feuer with a header