

# FORWARDS TOOK TOO LONG TO PROGRESS

## Smith Grasped Chance With A Lively Display

By Chiltern

DONCASTER ROVERS 1, LUTON TOWN 0

Each of the Town's last three defeats in the League have been by the same score 1-0 and that, plus the fact that in any of the last eight matches, the defence has not conceded more than one goal, suggests that the defence has done its job very adequately, but that the forwards have not been delivering the goods.

Things followed the same pattern at Doncaster on Thursday evening when a snap, breakaway goal was sufficient to give the Rovers the points.

That occurred in the 39th minute, when goalkeeper Gregg, who did a lot of throwing of the ball to his colleagues waiting in open spaces in midfield, found Brown with the ball.

A long punt down the middle set McMorran and Owen racing for the ball. Owen actually got a foot to it, perhaps did not have the best of the break of the ball, and McMorran brushed past to leave himself with only Baynham to beat.

Earlier in the game, McMorran had missed a chance that was easier, if anything, by scooping the ball wide from bang in front of goal and he nearly muffed this opportunity.

Faced by Baynham, poised to make his dive in whichever direction the ball went, the inside-left hit the ball straight at the goalkeeper, between whose legs it went and on into the net.

Baynham could not be blamed for the occurrence, for such an effort was the last thing he expected.

### TOWN HAD HAD CHANCES BEFORE THAT

Before they went into arrears, three good scoring opportunities came the way of the Town. Moore, after having drifted in from the wing, smacked the ball over the bar first time from Mitchell's centre and when McJarrow looked a likely scorer with a header, he surprised the Luton contingent by placing the ball the wrong side of the post.

On another occasion, Moore, shooting for the near post, would

have been better advised to have tried the other side of the goal.

Gregg got down to make a spectacular save for a corner, an unnecessary feat, it looked to me, as the ball seemed to be winging its way wide.

Other incidents in a keenly fought first half were a great save by Baynham from Lawlor and a miss by the bustling Adey.

During the last 20 minutes before half-time, Doncaster were finding each other more accurately than were the Town, and their capacity for moving the ball quickly enabled them to keep the Town defence at full stretch.

Rarely was the ball held unnecessarily and they got into the open spaces, ready for the first-time move. What rendered these tactics not so effective as they might have been was that they worked largely across the field, which gave the Town defence time to re-group.

They also tried the two centre-forward spearhead at times with McMorran often going down the middle and it was this liking for the centre of the field by a man who is really a leader that brought the deciding goal.

Considering this was the last match with nothing at stake for either side, it was quite a lively game. Doncaster made the better openings for themselves in the second half and there was general disappointment when Tindill blazed over after a fine, open movement.

In the main, though, the

Rovers having slightly more of the play this half, did not often threaten to add to their lead.

### TOOK TOO LONG TO MAKE GROUND

Taking too long to make ground, the Town mostly found themselves shut out by the grand covering of the Rovers' defence and when they did find a real gap, they were unfortunate enough to have a very confident and well-founded appeal for a penalty turned down.

A shot from McJarrow might easily have beaten Gregg, but its flight was stayed by the hand of Jones.

Maybe the referee was unsighted, for he pointed to his chest when he was surrounded by the Town's forwards, whereas it was perfectly clear from the stand that Jones had handled.

Some in-swinging corners by Mitchell seemed promising, but one of the best shots of the second half came from Smith when he raced through and made Gregg get down hurriedly with a hard, low drive.

A slice of bad luck for both teams occurred 17 minutes from the end when Lawlor and Owen went up for a high ball together, collided and both received gashed heads.

Both went off and neither returned, for Owen had to have a stitch inserted in a cut high on his forehead. Lawlor was more seriously injured, for he split his eyebrow badly and had three stitches put in.

Despite the fact that both teams were down to ten men, there was quite a spirited ending to the match, with Morton taking over the mantle of Owen most capably at centre-half and blocking up the middle completely.

### SWITCHING BY THE TOWN

There was a deal of switching by the Town at this stage and Mitchell had a spell at outside-right, with McJarrow at outside-left, and although it was Turner who first dropped back to right-half, Moore finished the match there.

No one could claim an unqualified success for Moore at outside-right, though he did some lively raiding before the interval, but was inclined to make his centres too square.

As a first appearance in the position, it could perhaps bear repetition in a similar difficulty, but Moore is more valuable in the middle of the field.

What took a lot of the movement out of the front line was that Paterson, a tall, cool centre-half, gained the same mastery over Pye as he did when the Rovers were at Luton.

Only when Pye switched down the wings did he look likely to lose his "shadow," and, at 22, Paterson is one of the best young prospects in the game.

In the air he was the undisputed master and he watched Pye's feet so closely that the leader, for all his wiles, seldom got past this bulwark.

To a large extent, the three inside-forwards shared the common fault of holding the ball too long, with McJarrow the chief culprit in this direction.

Always he had to get the ball under control, mostly tried to beat an opponent, and when he had finished this process, the Rovers' defence was there in full battle array.

McJarrow lacks the burst of speed that is so desirable in an inside-forward, and although Turner has this, he had few opportunities to use it.

Several times he took up good position near goal, but either the ball never reached this opportunist or, when it did, he was covered.

Turner is essentially a spearhead, but he did make a fair percentage of his passes quickly.

### SMITH TOOK HIS CHANCE FINELY

From Mitchell there was a stream of good centres in the first half, though he often found Makepeace a stumbling block and for much of the second half he took on a wandering role which made him look as if he always might pull something out of the bag.

Most pleasing feature of the match from the Town point of view was the way in which Smith took his somewhat belated chance.

On his only previous first-team outing—on the same ground—he was not too happy, but he showed amply that he has profited fully by his experience since.

He got into the game from the start and was always in it afterwards, tackling in hard, gallant style and always fast and effective.

In the second half he tried several of the dashes upfield familiar to Reserves' fans and the forward line could have used some of his devil.

No doubt about it. Judging by this performance, Smith has "arrived" and is yet another youngster to make the grade this season.

Apart from what I suppose must be called a mistake, Owen was as dependable as ever, and Doncaster's down-the-middle thrusts seldom brought a lot of danger.

There was a distinct improvement by Morton, who has been a bit below form recently, and he was strong in the tackle and made good use of the ball.

In the defence as a whole, few faults could be discovered. Pemberton occasionally found the wanderings of Tindill, who was as likely to pop up at inside-left as anywhere else, a little worrying



Ray Smith

at times, but he got through his work in polished, cool style.

Apart from his kicking, Dunne played an adequate part and Baynham, doing everything that was required, made a couple of saves that would have been too much for many goalkeepers.

**DONCASTER ROVERS:** Gregg; Makepeace, Harvey; Jones, Paterson, Brown; Tindill, Lawlor, Adey, McMorran, Walker.

**LUTON TOWN:** Baynham; Dunne, Pemberton; Morton, Owen, Smith; Moore, Turner, Pye, McJarrow, Mitchell.

Referee: J. R. Dunbar, Stapleford.  
Attendance: 9,500.