

FORWARD POWER HIT PRESTON HARD

Town Showed Great Dash And Enthusiasm

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 4, PRESTON NORTH END 1

SELDOM have the Town made a more satisfactory start to the season than they did at Kenilworth-road on Saturday when they soundly whipped Preston, who were making their first appearance in Division II after having been relegated.

The success was achieved by all-out forward power, with the line, in which Lornie was a late choice for centre-forward, settling down and clicking right from the first minute.

If ever a player accepted the chance that came his way so fortunately, then the former Leicester City man did, and his speed, dash and general enthusiasm soon made him a firm favourite with the crowd.

More than that, he fitted in splendidly with Turner and Ashworth and their frequent inter-changing which made it difficult at times to decide exactly who was leading the attack, was a matter of puzzlement to the Preston defence which always looked vulnerable down the middle.

All the way through, the Town played fast, direct football, cutting out the square pass and the unnecessary frills which have been so aggravating at times in the past, and the result was a crop of goals that could have been greater had the ball really been running kindly for them in front of goal.

Honour of being the first to score in the new season went to the probing ASHWORTH, who seized on Preston hesitation to bang in a shot from a sharp angle that seemed to take Kelly completely by surprise.

There was just one discordant note when Biggs steered into the Town net a corner from Alston soon afterwards, but the referee promptly disallowed the goal on the grounds that the ball had passed out of play in transit.

TENTATIVE PRESTON

Much of the Preston football was of a tentative nature, in sharp contrast to the directness of the Town who continually took the shortest route to goal.

And it paid off in the shape of another goal during an exciting spell just before half-time.

First, Turner had a shot that had beaten Kelly, cleared off the line by Wylie, and then Ashworth hooked the ball against the bar.

However, there was consolation for TURNER after 41 minutes when he coolly headed well out of Kelly's reach, a centre from the left.

That was an excellent position in which to be at half-time, but it was worsened seven minutes after the resumption when THOMPSON beat Baynham with a drive that went through a crowd of players and was deflected in its flight.

There was no time for Preston to consolidate that success because the Town hit back furiously and, two minutes later, with Bramwell joining the attack to take the ball from a short corner, and centring hard, ASHWORTH was on the spot to apply the finishing touch.

GROVES SEALED VICTORY

With that goal, came virtually the end of the Preston fight, though their defence kept battling away, and GROVES sealed the victory with 14 minutes left with a well-placed shot from just inside the penalty area.

There were broad smiles behind the scenes afterwards about the success of the forward line, and this inside-forward trio looks like being a winner.

There were strength and resource on the wings, too, where Walden looked an altogether more assured player, and Fleming's wandering combined with his speed and clever ball play, made him a danger, too.

But the whole point about the attack was its confidence, and the fact that every member of it was anxious for the ball all the time.

One or two uncertain passages developed in front of the Town goal, which indicates that a little

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"It was obvious how much more effective was Luton's straight-for-goal, no-nonsense football than Preston's prodding. Luton have a nice blend and should do well. They will be a match for all but the very best."—"The People."



"Luton have enthusiastic, hard-working inside-forwards in Turner, Lornie and Ashworth, who chased everything from start to finish, and their skill and dash was altogether too much for a Preston defence which showed a tell-tale gap down the middle where Singleton was far from certain."

"Not that perhaps he was wholly to blame, because the frequent inter-changing of the Luton inside-men must have been confusing, and he seldom knew which of the three was coming down the middle."—"Sunday Telegraph."



"Luton could be one of the surprise packets of the Second Division. Sam Bartram's policy of all-out attack was plainly shown. All three inside-forwards, Turner, Lornie and Ashworth, chased every hope with tremendous enthusiasm."—"News of the World."



"Luton carried out manager Sam Bartram's policy of 'goals and more goals' right from the start."—"Sunday Pictorial."



"Luton's attack seem to have modelled themselves on Spurs—even to the lavish demonstrations of affection which followed every goal. There were kisses, cuddles, whoops of joy, and the spectators didn't mind a bit!"—"Daily Mail."

tightening up is necessary, but there is nothing fundamentally wrong and this should be a strong, reliable formation.

Half-back strength enabled the Town to gain control of the middle of the field, with Morton and Groves becoming more and more on top as the game wore on.

Understandably, perhaps, Cope took time to find his feet, but he gave Biggs no scope at all and rarely looked to be in much trouble, though he was not so commanding as it was thought he would be. However, that, doubtless, will come.

There was solid support for him from McNally and Bramwell, and if Baynham's handling was not so sure as it might have been, nothing serious accrued from his occasional slips.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Cope, Groves; Walden, Turner, Lornie, Ashworth, Fleming.

PRESTON NORTH END: Kelly; Cunningham, Wilson (R.); Barber, Singleton, Wylie; Alston, Wilson (D.), Biggs, Sneddon, Thompson.

Referee: E. T. Jennings, Stourbridge.