

THRILLING WIN GIVES FRESH HOPE TO THE TOWN

Turner's Decider After Lead Had Disappeared

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 4, MIDDLESBROUGH 3

TRIUMPH and tragedy attended the Town in almost equal quantities at Kenilworth-road on Monday night.

Triumph because they collected two invaluable points with a dramatic late goal, after they had seen a three-goals lead whittled away.

Tragedy because Walden, their most dangerous forward, had to be carried off in the 13th minute of the second half with torn ligaments of the right knee.

He stayed down in obvious pain after a tackle by Yeoman, and there was an almost sickening interval while a search was made for a stretcher—without success.

First a form was procured only to be rejected, and in the end Walden was taken off on a duck-board. When this most unfortunate accident occurred, the score was 3-2, ORRITT and PEACOCK having scored for Middlesbrough between the 50th and 52nd minutes.

When Walden left, the Town's chances looked slim, especially when PEACOCK levelled the score with 19 minutes to go.

Then, courageously though they were playing, the Town seemed to be fighting a losing battle. However, they held out, and after Lightening had saved well from Pacey, the terraces erupted in the 83rd minute. TURNER, with a first-time drive from the edge of the penalty area, beat Lightening with all his old sureness and accuracy, to land the points that had seemed destined to slip away.

The last few minutes were packed with tension and anxiety, with the Town holding on grimly to this sorely needed victory. Altogether it was a game to remember, and a pity that no more than 6,431 watched it.

FIRST HALF WAS BEST PROPAGANDA

But the Town's first half display was the best possible propaganda in their aim to fill the terraces again. Reserves GOLDIE and LORNI were brought into the attack as late replacements, and each scored as good a goal as we have seen this season.

Each came almost directly from long clearances by Baynham. In the 12th minute Goldie, from fully 25 yards, sent the ball roat-

ing over the head of the startled Lightening, and two minutes later, Lornie produced a similar drive, but from a very sharp angle.

Earlier, although the Town had been making all the running, Harris missed a good chance of putting the visitors ahead. After the two-goal punch, Pacey and Daniel each cleared off the goal-line, but the Town, keeping the ball moving sickly, were much the more dangerous.

Davies and Goldie each just failed to connect with hard centres from the right, and justice was served on the stroke of half-time, when TURNER raced up at speed to put the finishing touch to a centre by Walden, who had been sent away by Davies.

There followed the early second-half shocks when, for some reason, the Town stopped moving the ball about and began to hold on to it.

GAME WAS IN THE MELTING POT

Ominous gaps began to open up in defence and both Daniel and Bramwell tended to give the opposing wingers too much room in which to manoeuvre.

Baynham seemed to be late in going down for the header that brought the first goal and was caught out of position when the second came.

Bramwell kicked the ball away but a linesman signalled that it had crossed the line—a decision with which the Town disagreed. However the game was then in the melting pot, as has happened all too frequently after the Town have put themselves in an apparently impregnable position.

Peacock's equaliser from point-blank range, which had Baynham beating the ground in anguish, seemed to settle it, but the Town had the courage to hit back. This sort of fighting spirit could be the means of keeping them in the Second Division.

In promoting Goldie and Lornie, Manager Bill Harvey took something of a gamble, but it paid off because both gave vastly improved showings compared with previous first team appearances.

That Turner is among the goals again in much of his old style is the best possible news for the Town, who however, will miss sadly the danger from Walden who gave Jones, the England under 23 player, a thoroughly uncomfortable first half.

KELLY AND LOWNDS SHONE IN DEFENCE

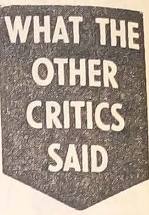
Davies had rather a quiet game, but he had a hand in two of the goals. Best of the defence were Kelly, who completely mastered England leader Peacock until the Middlesbrough revival began, and the hard-tackling Lownds who worked his heart out.

Pacey had a competent first half, but was apt to be lax in his marking afterwards. On their first-half form the Town can collect sufficient points to avoid the drop, but they must find some way of stopping the reaction that seems to set in once they are ahead convincingly.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Daniel, Bramwell; Pacey, Kelly, Lownds; Walden, Davies, Goldie, Turner, Lornie.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Lightening; Chapman, Jones; Yeoman, Nurse, McNeil; Kaye, Harris, Peacock, Orritt, Povey.

Referee: S. Yates, Bristol.



LUTON v MIDDLESBROUGH

"A deserved three-goal lead wiped out . . . reduced to 10 men . . . Luton, against all soccer reason and logic gained a great victory last night. Walden was in the dressing room with torn knee ligaments when, seven minutes from time, Gordon Turner lashed the winner off a post.

"Orritt and Peacock had scored in a seven minute burst immediately after the interval. And when Peacock rounded off a Harris-Kaye move with a tame shot that crept through Baynham's legs, Luton had every reason to fold up. But their 10 fighters, scouring defence, battled with the fervour and spirit of 11, and Turner's winner brought a just and deserved victory.

"For 45 minutes it was Luton all the way. Why are they struggling for Division II survival? Two shots from reserves Jim Goldie and Jack Lornie brought in at the last moment because of injuries, set the thinly populated terraces chanting: 'Luton, Luton, Luton.'—"Daily Mail."

"Harry Walden, the Luton right-winger, was carried off the field on a duckboard with badly damaged ligaments in his right leg at Kenilworth-road last night. It was a wretched end to one of the finest games this slim former Kettering player has had for the Second Division club.

"But his 10 colleagues, having lost a three-goal lead, not only held rejuvenated Middlesbrough in the final half-hour but snatched a winner seven minutes from the end. Walden had made the night a miserable affair for Gordon Jones, Middlesbrough's stylish England Under-23 left-back. But in the 57th minute another long, meandering run by the Luton forward came to a sudden halt against the hard frame of Yeoman."—"Daily Telegraph."

DERBY v LUTON

"This was an absolute travesty of justice. Faced with a Luton side struggling from the 35th minute, with full-back Brendan McNally a limping wing passenger, Derby could manage just one goal to give them victory in this all-important relegation struggle.

"Luton were magnificent in defeat. McNally, with a badly hurt right leg, summed up all their courage and endeavour by staying on the field for nuisance value, but unfortunately luckless Luton did not have that shade of fortune they needed to deprive Derby of the points their errors didn't warrant."—"Sunday Express."

"The way the Hatters fought back after McNally had hurt his right ankle, suggests they are not doomed to the Third Division yet. And if centre-forward Robin Chandler had snapped up two wonderful second half chances they could have won, despite their handicap.

"Of course, Luton missed the attacking punch of Gordon Turner who moved back as an emergency wing-half, but Turner was still the most hard working Hatter—and he found time to test Matthews with a couple of his his old-time specials. Ron Baynham was twice laid out making daring saves. And if only Luton's forwards had taken those chances his courage would have been better rewarded."—"The People"