

TOWN'S WING PROBLEM FOR THE CUP-TIE

FAIRCHILD MAY NOW BE ABLE TO PLAY

Walden Injury Probably Cost Town A Point

By CHILTERN

JUST when the Town had hoped that their run of bad luck of injuries to forwards had come to an end, there came another casualty on Saturday when Harry Walden went off with a broken collar-bone and will be out of action for three or four weeks.

This was doubly unfortunate because Walden, who has been unlucky with injuries recently, had been showing signs of returning form and he could have been a key figure in the Cup-tie at Bridgwater on Saturday.

NOW, the Town have to face up to the prospect of being without him and the only other recognised, experienced outside-right on the books, Mike Fairchild, is also injured and there is a doubt about him being fit in time for Saturday, though there are hopes of him being so.

He resumed training yesterday and could well come into the reckoning.

If he does not, then Manager Bill Harvey would have to turn to Alun Clarke or Robin Chandler, both of whom have played on the right wing, though neither has been in the team this season.

Problem Is To Get More Goals

BOTH are part-time professionals and both have played on the right wing in the League side previously.

The manager's problem, of course, is to get together a forward-line which holds the prospect of more goals than are coming at the moment.

In fact, only Turner is getting his name into the scorers' list at all regularly and it was only rarely on Saturday that goals looked like coming from any other quarter unless it was from wing-half.

cut about the first Oldham goal which came after 25 minutes.

Fell For The Oldest Trick In The Game

PACEY gave away a free kick for a foul inches outside the penalty area and the Town's defensive wall fell for just about the oldest trick in the game. Johnstone stepped to take the kick, but was only feinting and it was sufficient for the "wall" to open up and Whitaker crashed the ball in.

His direction was changed by the fact that it hit Fincham in transit and it thudded into the roof of the net. Not until near half-time did the Town forwards promise to gain an equaliser, but they could not beat Bolland.

Forward Line Was Ill-Balanced

NOT until, that is, nine minutes after the interval, when Turner rounded off a movement that was begun by Smith.

Showing greater fight in the forward line than they had in the first half, the Town really began to hold out hope that they could do enough to win, but the trouble was that their forward-line was ill-balanced because of the weakness of the left wing.

Riddick, to whom the crowd are not very kind, and that is

Why Pacey's Goal Was Disallowed

WITH the scores level at 1-1 in the second half, Pacey banged the ball into the net during a scramble in front of goal but the referee disallowed it, not for any offence by Pacey but for hands by Riddick to whom the first chance had fallen.

I think it is fair to say that had not Walden been hurt, the Town would have hung on to a point and they looked like doing so even despite their handicap until five minutes from the end.

Fincham Nearly Saved A Point

THEN, Oldham gained a corner which Johnstone took and Ledger caught Bramwell napping by nipping in and gliding the ball into the net with his head.

Even then, the Town hit back and were desperately unlucky when Fincham, going up for a free kick met the ball with his head and, with Bolland beaten, saw the ball strike the cross bar and rebound into play.

Although Oldham, as a team, were the better combination, the Town could claim to have had just about all the bad luck that was going.

There was nothing very clear-

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 1

Turner

OLDHAM ATHLETIC 2

Whitaker, Ledger

LUTON TOWN: 2

Turner, Morton, Bramwell;

Pacey, Fincham, McGuffie;

Walden, Smith, Turner, Riddick, Jardine.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC:

Bollands; Taylor, Marshall;

Frizzell, Williams, Sie-

wright; Ledger, Johnstone,

Lister, Colquhoun, Whitaker.

Referee: D Brady, Rother-

ham. Attendance 6,222.

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Smith, who had his name taken by the referee for querying his decision, was responsible for some neat distribution which suggested that he might well be the one to wear as the link-man. Whitaker was also booked by the referee.

Left-Wing Pair Were Switched

IN the hopes of improved movement, Riddick and Jardine were switched for the second half, but the latter had an unproductive game, too, and would persist in running into trouble unnecessarily.

From Riddick's point of view, this bias against him is unfortunate and it is a fact that he is a much better player away from home.

In terms of potential, Walden was the most dangerous forward and looked as if he were well on his way to regaining his best form, a fact that makes his injury which came a quarter of an hour from the end all the more unfortunate.

Fincham Fulfilling All Expectations

THERE were few chances for Turner, who did not receive a lot of workable material and who, in addition, found Williams in unyielding mood.

Fincham, who is now fulfilling all expectations, was the outstanding member of the defence, and Lister, Oldham's leading scorer, was kept strangely quiet.

There was some strong backing from Pacey, and McGuffie, too, came through creditably.

However, Morton had more trouble with Whitaker than has been the case with a winger since he switched to right-back and Bramwell, though he fought hard, did not completely get to grips with Ledger, either.

There was nothing Baynham could do about either goal and he played with confidence.

Reserves Had Attack Weaknesses, Too

FACING a more experienced Peterborough team, the Reserves went down disappointingly by 4-0, after being three down at half-time.

Their young defence could not hold the home forwards which included Day, formerly of Middlesbrough, but the main trouble was the lack of punch in the front-line which put an extra burden on the defenders.