

BEST AWAY DISPLAY FOR SOME TIME

Town Were Stronger In Defence And Attack

By CHILTERN

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 0, LUTON TOWN 3

WITHOUT any doubt at all, this was the Town's most impressive and satisfying away display for at least a couple of years, and the manner in which it was achieved, gives rise for hoping that the away record this season will be a good deal more successful.

Whereas in some quarters, there has been an attempt to write down the quality of this victory on the ground of the moderate nature of the opposition, it is a truism that a team can play only as well as its opponents will allow.

As their record showed last season, Plymouth are not without skill and potential and, as I saw it on Saturday, their chief deficiency was that they had no inside-forward with the ability to hold the ball and bring some semblance of order and balance to the attack.

They exerted quite a lot of pressure at times, but their work tended to be too hurried and they found the Town defence an obstacle which prevented them reaching close quarters often.

There is little doubt that the pattern for this match was set in the fifth minute when McKechnie provided an accurate cross which WALDEN, from the inside-left position, steered, first-time into the net for his first goal in League football.

For quite a spell after this, the Town proceeded to give an exhibition of football which was both simple and effective, with the ball kept on the move all the time.

A little more thrust down the middle would have been welcome at that stage, but the main point was that there was cohesion and understanding in the front line that held out infinite promise for the future.

Although Carter once struck a post, the Town defence was seldom in deep water, so that the

lead was maintained until the interval, five minutes after which, TURNER coolly placed the ball in the far corner of the net after a centre from the right by Fleming had eluded the Argyle defenders.

And it was TURNER who sealed the victory five minutes from the end when he cleverly lobbed the ball over MacLaren's head after the defenders had got themselves into a tangle.

In McKechnie the Town have an obvious find because, although there were times when he appeared to be finding the pace a little too much, he showed considerable ability and made good use of the ball.

More than that, he finished strongly, teaming up dangerously with Fleming in the latter part of the second half.

Then, there was a marked improvement from the outside-left, who earlier had been below the standard set by Walden, the most dangerous and consistent winger on the field.

Also outstanding was the hard-working Ashworth until he received a knock on the head, as a result of which he suffered from concussion for much of the second half.

VALUE OF EXPERIENCE

Turner's experience was of great value because he was able to direct the attack and, generally, he showed that centre-forward is by far his best position these days.

Absent through injury was the new captain, Cope, but he was not missed because Kelly, after a tentative start, settled down to take a complete grip on the situation in the middle of the field and gave a most creditable performance.

In fact, the Town had a foundation of strength in the middle line, with Morton at his best and Groves doing a fine job in defence, but occasionally too dilatory in his use of the ball, with the result that he tended to hold up things.

Despite the fact that he had to have attention twice, Bramwell never relaxed the grip he took on Anderson early on, with the result that little came from the right (Continued in Next Column.)

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"The close marking of Luton's defence took the steam out of Plymouth's attack, and Argyle never looked like saving the game once Luton went in front in the 6th minute." — "Sunday Express"

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"Slowly but surely Luton recognised their task was nowhere near so difficult as they anticipated. And once in front they never looked back. Well—only occasionally—as if in disbelief that Plymouth, usually one of the soundest sides at home, should be opening this New Deal season in such sorry style." — "Sunday Telegraph"

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"Luton, the better of two moderate sides, looked much the same as they always do when the sun is baking the pitches hard—pretty and clever." — "The People"

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"Luton gained a deserved win—while Plymouth got the slow hand-clap from the 15,490 crowd, hundreds of whom left long before the end. But a big (appreciative) hand was due to Gordon Turner, the Luton centre-forward for the cool way he netted his two goals, though usually well matched by centre-half Fincham." — "Sunday Pictorial"

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"Argyle's blundering attempts to play football rarely threatened Luton, who ambled to victory with an assurance and poise that underlined Bartram's pre-season prophecy: 'It's promotion for us.'" — "Daily Express"

(Continued from Preceding Col.) and, with Argyle neglecting Thorne, who looked as if he might be a danger, McNally was able to keep this wing buttoned up, too.

Behind them all was Baynham, safe, sound and confident, and thoroughly deserving to maintain his first clean sheet of the season.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: MacLaren; Stacey, Fulton; Williams (J S), Fincham, Newman; Anderson, Carter, Jackson, Williams (K), Thorne.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Groves; Walden, Ashworth, Turner, McKechnie, Fleming.

Referee: R E Smith, Newport. Attendance: 15,490.