

INJURED RAY SMITH HAS TO MISS TONIGHT'S MATCH

OTHER FORWARDS IN DOUBTFUL CATEGORY

Fears That Pacey May Be Out For Cup-Tie

By CHILTERN

WITH a match facing them tonight with Bristol City at Ashton Gate, the Town were yesterday faced with team problems, all affecting the attack which will not be resolved until later this morning.

Definitely out of action with a sprained ankle is Ray Smith and there is a considerable doubt about the fitness of Mike Fairchild, who received a kick on an ankle during Saturday's game.

AFTER the match, Gordon Turner had a swollen knee, but this improved during the week-end and he was able to play in a practice match yesterday morning, main reason for which was to give him a thorough test, and also Freddie Jardine, who has been out with groin trouble.

Should there be no reaction, Jardine could well return to the team at outside-left and Manager Bill Harvey could fill the vacancy at inside-right by leaving Jim Weir there.

However, that is supposition, and not based on information from the manager, who will make no decision until this morning, when he hopes that Turner will be fit.

City Lucky To Gain Third Win In A Row

AFTER their home defeat by the City last Wednesday, the Town will probably approach tonight's match with some apprehension, but at least, they have the knowledge that they played well enough in the first half against the City to have built up a winning lead had their luck been in.

With an unchanged team, City had a rather lucky 1-0 home win on Saturday against Hull City, who had two players injured and yet were unlucky to lose.

This was the City's third consecutive win and they are unlikely to change the following team: Gibson; Briggs, Thresher; Parr, Connor, Low; Derrick, Clark, Ateyo, Williams, Tate.

Turner Came Back With A Hat - Trick

THEY were most welcome points that the Town collected from their meeting with Southend on Saturday and their four goals were easily their best effort in Third Division football.

Left out of the team for the last five matches, Gordon Turner made a triumphant return with a hat-trick, to double his output for the season and to emphasise that, with support, he is still an opportunist of quality.

Unfortunately, the occasion was marred by an ugly incident, which led to a rare occurrence at Luton—the sending off of two players.

Tempers Lost After The Fourth Goal

UNTIL the Town's fourth goal, play had been comparatively mild in character, but several Southend players lost their tempers after the referee had allowed the goal secured by Weir.

They claimed he was offside as he had-footed the ball in after McGuffie had crashed a magnificent drive against a post.

There followed an amazing scene during which Bentley booted the ball over the Bobbers' Stand and out of the ground and then dashed to protest to both the linesman and the referee.

Two Players Received Marching Orders

AFTER that things began to get out of hand and the sending off incident followed two minutes later, when, during a Town attack which Pacey was backing up, he was deliberately kicked by Friel.

Unfortunately, Pacey retaliated and with interest and the upshot

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 4
Turner 3 (pen.), Weir, SOUTHEAD UNITED 1
Bradbury (pen.).

LUTON TOWN: Baynam; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, McGuffie; Fairchild, Smith, Turner, McKechie, Weir.

SOUTHEAD UNITED: Rhodes; Neal, King; Bentley, Costello, Bradbury; Woodley, Smith, Ashworth, Friel, McKiven.

Referee: H G New, Havant. Attendance: 5,337.

It was that he accompanied Friel to the dressing room.

In view of the Town's shortage of experienced players and the imminent danger that if Pacey is suspended, he could be forced to miss the Cup-tie at Bridgwater, the happening was doubly unfortunate, and to make matters worse, Pacey was booked, unlikely it should be said, a fortnight ago.

Bentley Incensed The Town Fans

TWO more fouls by Bentley further incensed the crowd, who booed the Southend captain continually and it was completely in character that the only remaining goal should come from a penalty.

This, I thought, was a harsh decision because Bramwell made what seemed to be a perfectly fair tackle on Woodley, who fell over the left-back's legs, and Bradbury scored from the spot.

That came six minutes from the end and was too late to have any bearing on the result.

A bad blunder by Rhodes and King in taking a goal-kick

gave Turner the opportunity to score the first of his goals.

Plucky Display By The Injured Smith

HE simply nipped in between the two, gained possession of the ball and walked it into an empty net.

For 70 minutes of this match, the Town were under the considerable handicap of having Smith limping on the left wing with a sprained right ankle, but he made the best of a bad job by showing considerable pluck and judicious use of the ball.

Indeed, it was from a centre from him that Turner headed his third goal after 59 minutes, five minutes after he had netted from the penalty spot after Costello had shouled down McKechie unceremoniously.

McKechie Was Given A Rough Time

MCKECHIE was given some of the roughest time by the close marking and hard tackling with which he had to contend and although he worked hard, he found himself with little scope for shooting.

With Smith on the wing, Weir was pressed in severely at inside-right where he did not achieve much success before half-time, but he improved afterwards when he showed some deft footwork.

Fairchild found King much of a stumbling block, so that he did not get the ball across consistently, but the quality of the support he received was not always of the best.

McGuffie Brought Driving Force

A PART from the opportunism of Turner, the driving power which McGuffie brought at left-half had much to do with his badly needed success.

Certainly his inclusion brought more constructive activity in mid-field and he produced three shot that might very easily have counted as goals.

All the early fears about the ability of Fincham to fill the centre-half position capably have now been dispersed by a series of good displays and this was probably his best so far.

Fincham Was In Dominating Form

ONLY rarely did he allow Ashworth to get a look in, though the game might have taken a different turn had the centre-forward scored in the opening seconds when he was balked by a great save by Baynam.

A Fincham dominated on this occasion and, with Morton and



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Bramwell, formed a splendid barrier.

Until his summary dismissal from the scene, Pacey had been getting through a tremendous amount of work and the defence looked a thoroughly capable unit with Baynam showing fine anticipation.

Star-Studded Spurs Stunned Reserves

FACING a star-studded Tottenham team, which included the Welsh International, Mel Hopkins and Les Allen, who has played for the Football League, as well as the experienced John Smith and Marchi, the Town Reserves found themselves up against it at White Hart Lane.

Yet they reached half-time on only one goal down, but in the second half they felt the full force of the Spurs' attack, which scored eight more goals.

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