

Scouting Expeditions On Saturday Drew Blanks

By CHILTERN

WITH two home matches facing them, this week is a vital one for the Town and they look likely to have to face at least the first of them without further reinforcement of their forward line.

Two leads were followed on Saturday but, in neither case, was there any encouragement to go further. In fact, chief scout, George Martin, who was watching a centre-forward listed at his own request, told me yesterday, "I would not have taken him for nothing."

SIMILARLY, the Chairman, Mr. P. G. Mitchell, who missed seeing his team play for the second consecutive Saturday, reported, "What I saw did not match up to the standard of what we require to help us."

Just how urgent the need is was underlined at Watford on Saturday when, despite the confidence boost of the inclusion of Smith for the first time, the forwards showed a depressing lack of drive and finishing power and, yet again, failed to find the net.

Goals win points and the Town are just not getting them. Their dilemma is as simple as that.

Badly Need Four Points This Week

FIRST test of the week comes at Kenilworth-road tomorrow night when Bristol City, a team that contains much experience, will be the visitors.

Although these are early days to talk or worry about relegation, it has not escaped notice that the Town are down in that zone and they badly need four points from the matches with the City and Southend United on Saturday.

Bristol had a great win at Bournemouth on Saturday when the Seaside's lost their unbeaten home record which had existed for 33 matches, due to a goal by the former England International, John Atyeo, though from all accounts, their victory was easier than it would seem.

"Hat-trick" Hooper Missed The Match

IT was achieved without the assistance of their expensive outside-left signing from Cardiff

City, Peter Hooper, who went down with influenza on the morning of the match and who was replaced by the former Newcastle United centre-forward, Alex Tait.

Whether or not Hooper will have recovered in time to play here is by no means certain which will be good news for the Town who do not have very fond memories of this player.

It was his hat-trick for Cardiff here late last season that helped to lose them their place in the Second Division.

Will Not Want To Alter Line-up

LIKE the Town, the City have not yet decided on their team but, after their success at Bournemouth, they will want to alter it as little as possible.

Their line-up was—Gibson; Briggs, Thresher; Parr, Connor, Low; Derrick, Clark, Atyeo, Williams, Tait.

In the main, this team has been built up from the amateur field, with a fair sprinkling of local talent and, apart from Tait, only Connor and Low, formerly of Huddersfield Town, and Gibson, who went to Ashton Gate from Shrewsbury Town, have had previous experience with a League club.

Town's Weakness On The Wings

OBVIOUSLY, the task of the Town manager, Bill Harvey, is to find some extra punch in attack and just how he is to achieve this, is difficult to tell.

Most of the permutations have been tried now, but something must be done about the weakness

on the wings which was so marked at Watford.

Walden built up trouble for himself by continually taking the ball across the field as the result of which he tended to crowd out Smith, who was using his best to make an impression on his debut.

Just why Walden so often comes inside when he built up his reputation by beating his opposing full-back on the outside, is difficult to fathom.

Smith's Promise For The Future

AT any rate, he is miles below his best form of last season and, while, clever though he is on the ball at times, just did not show the thrust to worry the Watford defence.

Obviously, Smith has ability and his presence will be of considerable assistance, but he cannot be expected to do it alone and needs more than he received in this instance.

His use of the ball was quite good and he did show constructive ideas which promise well for the future.

Salisbury just comes into the useful category and was unable to spend as much time, though he came as near scoring as anybody when Mancini headed off the line a header from him shortly after. Watford had taken the lead.

Goal Was Against The Run Of Play

THAT happened four minutes after half-time and was distinctly against the run of the play because the Town had been the better team up to the point of getting the ball into the net.

Indeed, had they carried any real punch, they could have been comfortably ahead by the change-over.

That Watford goal was an unlucky affair for the Town because there did not seem to be much particular danger when Howfield shot and it seemed that Baynham should have saved it.

At the time, I thought he might have been unsighted, but his examination was that he slipped in going down to the ball.

Second Goal Was Finish For Town

ANOTHER streaky goal came the way of Watford 12 minutes after half-time after Baynham had had to race out of his goal to save from Livesey.

There was some suspicion of obstruction by the goalkeeper, but the referee allowed play to go on and the ball came out to Harris who promptly plugged it at goal.

Somehow, it got past Bramwell who had covered up and the

FOR THE RECORDS

WATFORD 2
Howfield, Harris

LUTON TOWN 0

WATFORD: Jennings;
Bell, Nicholas; Crisp,
Mancini, Gregory; Howfield,
Fraser, Livesey, Oliver,
Harris.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Morton, Bramwell;
Pacey, Fincham, Lownds;
Walden, Smith, McKechnie,
Salisbury, Weir.

Referee: J. S. Pickles,
(Stockport).

Attendance: 13,250.

goalkeeper definitely was unsighted on this occasion.

That was literally the end for the Town because although they had a deal of the play afterwards, their finishing became even weaker and there was not sufficient determination in the front line.

This Trio Formed A Solid Barrier

IT was certainly not the fault of McKechnie that the Town were goal-less because he is playing very well at the moment in the face of inadequate support and he made two or three good scoring efforts.

Defensively, there is not much wrong because Morton, Fincham and Bramwell formed a solid barrier and the middle was tightly held.

I thought Pacey rather attempted to do too much in his anxiety to bring about improvement, though he was quite a driving force, and Lownds made a useful contribution.

This was far from a memorable occasion because there was little of the cut and thrust one would expect from a meeting of old rivals.

First Success For The Reserves

THE Reserves gained maximum points for the first time this season on Saturday against a Bristol Rovers side who, although strong in defence, had little to offer when it came to scoring.

One-up after 11 minutes through a McGuffie penalty, Luton held on to their advantage and had a comfortable 2-0 half-time lead.

Ever when McBain was injured in the second half, the Town continued to look the better team with Riddick, who scored twice, and Fairchild always dangerous.