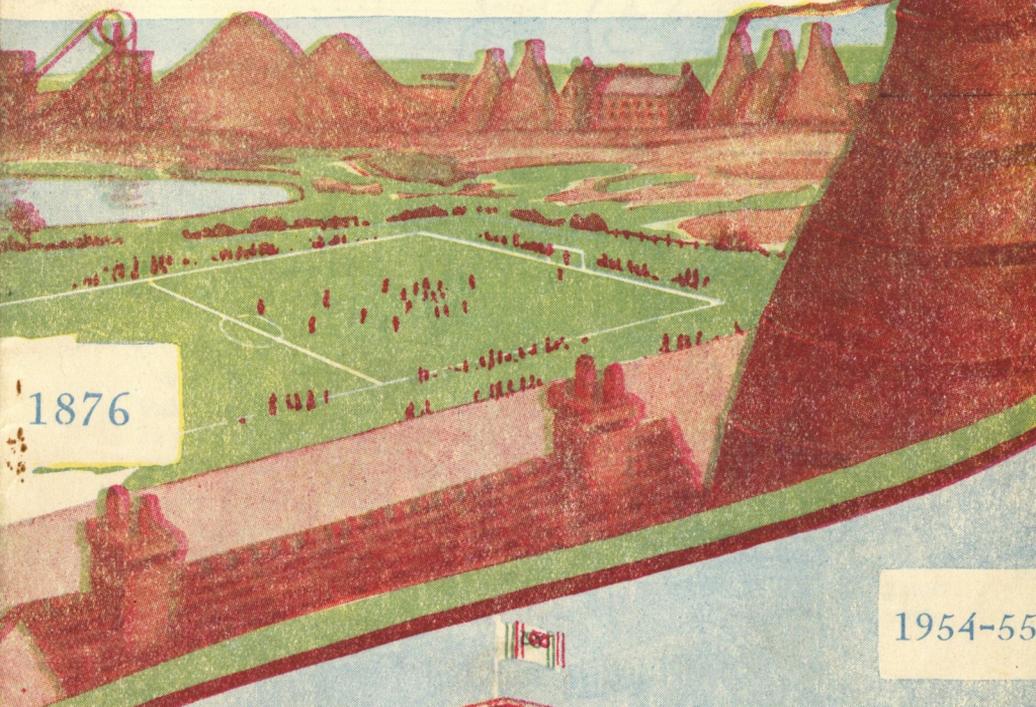


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 1954

PORT VALE



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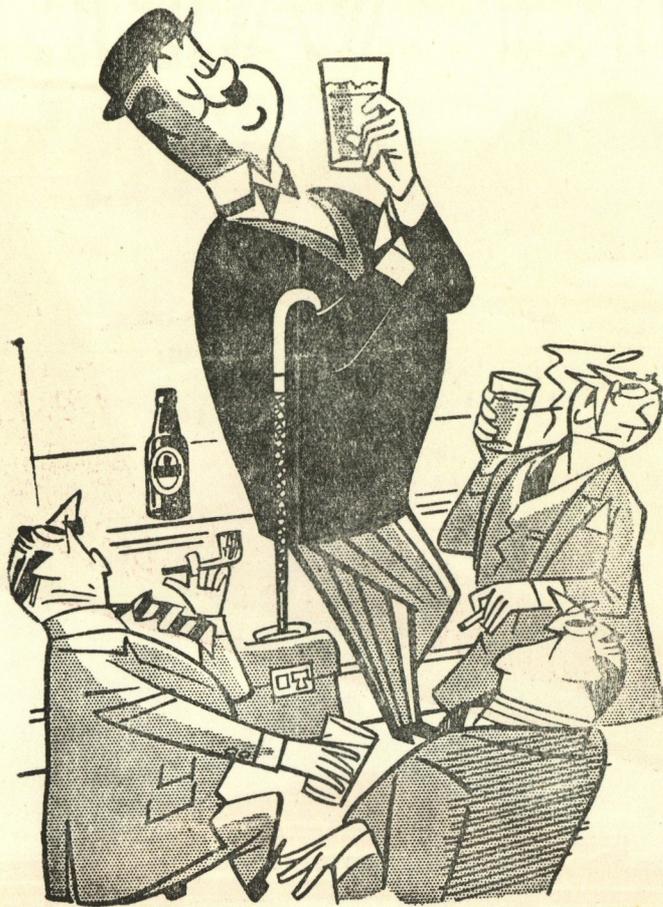
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CLUB NOTES

We offer a hearty welcome to Luton Town on their first visit to Vale Park. They lie on the fringe of the promotion challenge with 23 points from 19 games. We, out to improve our precarious league position can expect a stern struggle this afternoon.

Last Saturday was an inglorious day for Port Vale at St. Andrews. For the second time this season we had the unhappy experience of having seven goals scored against us, and to add to our troubles Tom Cheadle was injured early on and took no further part in the game after the first half hour. He will probably be out of the side for some weeks nursing a broken rib.

The Blues (as Birmingham call themselves) proved to be a very strong, virile side. They moved with an easy rhythm and used the open spaces to good purpose. Their accuracy in finding each other tested our defence to the limit, even before Cheadle had to retire.

After our defensive record set up last season it is something we never anticipated to find our defence overrun and yielding seven goals in one game. It remains to be seen whether added strength to the forward line will relieve the defence of the heavy burden it is carrying and give more balance to the side.

Whilst we were losing 7 - 2 at Birmingham our visitors were inflicting a 7 - 3 defeat on Blackburn Rovers, the league leaders, which all raises interesting speculations on the result of today's match.

At the time of writing, the composition of the team for today is problematical. In the meantime intensive efforts are being made to secure an experienced player to augment our playing strength, and if possible he will be brought into the side this afternoon.

It is pleasing to find the reserve side taking both points from Ellesmere Port Town, and the "A" team have now taken the lead in their league table.

An announcement will be made in the programme later in connection with sale of tickets for the Stoke City match in January next.

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The Manager speaks . . .

We often hear remarks such as "such and such a club are good cup fighters" or "it's like cup-tie football."

Is there any validity in the suggestion that cup-tie football differs from League football?

Now that the season of cup-ties has come again, this is obviously a matter which exercises the minds of manager, players and supporters alike. I believe that underlying these comments is a thought that cup-tie football is inferior to league football in class of play and more robust and rough.

This is, to my mind a fallacy and if we analyse the results over the past few years it can be readily seen that it is the best footballing teams which meet with the greater success in Cup and League alike.

Over the past twelve years we have such teams as Arsenal, Preston, Wolves, Derby County, Manchester United, Blackpool, Newcastle and Tottenham with over twenty winning games in the cup and remember these clubs do not come in until the Third Round proper. Taking this analysis further and looking at the league records of these clubs one realises that these clubs have in their turn epitomised all that is best in good class football. It may, however, well be that another important factor in their success has been attributed to a wrong source. Toughness and robustness in play—keenness in endeavour and a "never give up" attitude on the part of the players is often misjudged. This factor must always be present whether in the long drive for league success or the quicker, more urgent knock out of cup-tie matches. This does not mean that clubs to achieve success in either competition must copy the style of play of these clubs. Every club tends to develop a distinct style of its own. Perhaps it is from this fact that some clubs develop a reputation as Cup fighters because a desperate policy is instituted which temporarily upsets the 'class' team.

To the true connoisseur of football some of the keenest delights come from a study of contrasting styles, a whole team's style may be built round the special talents of one or two players. Other teams may develop a style as the result of tactical theorising which eventually becomes traditional to the club.

Certain is it, however, that league and cup football does not differ with the best clubs, and it is only the "do or die" attitude of opponents who seek a place in the sun by beating a favourite which tends to show cup-tie football in a different light.

F. C. Steele.

SATURDAY NEXT — 11th DECEMBER 1954

NORTHWICH

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First Team Fixtures

Second League Fixtures

Date 1954	Opponent	Goals F.	Goals A.
Aug. 21	Bristol Rovers ... a	0	1
23	Notts County ... h	1	1
28	Plymouth Argyle h	1	0
Sept. 2	Notts County ... a	1	1
4	Stoke City ... a	0	0
6	Swansea Town ... h	1	0
16	Swansea Town ... a	1	7
18	Derby County ... h	3	0
25	West Ham U. ... a	0	2
27	Doncaster R. ... a	0	1
Oct. 2	Blackburn R. ... h	0	3
9	Lincoln City ... h	1	3
16	Hull City ... a	1	2
23	Ipswich Town ... h	3	3
30	Notts Forest ... a	3	2
Nov. 6	Leeds United ... h	0	1
13	Bury ... a	2	2
20	Middlesbrough (1) h	1	1
27	Birmingham City a	2	7
Dec. 4	Luton Town ... h	...	...
11	Rotherham U. (2) a	...	...
18	Bristol Rovers ... h	...	...

Second Division

Second League Fixtures

Date 1954-55	Opponent	Goals F.	Goals A.
Dec. 25	Fulham ... a	...	...
27	Fulham ... h	...	...
Jan. 1	Plymouth Argyle a	...	...
8	F.A. Cup (3)	...	...
15	Stoke City ... h	...	...
22	Doncaster R. ... h	...	...
29	F.A. Cup (4)	...	...
Feb. 5	Derby County ... a	...	...
12	West Ham U. ... h	...	...
19	Blackburn R. (5) a	...	...
26	Lincoln City ... a	...	...
Mar. 5	Hull City ... h	...	...
12	Ipswich Town (6) a	...	...
19	Notts Forest ... h	...	...
26	Leeds United ... a	...	...
Apr. 2	Bury ... h	...	...
8	Liverpool ... h	...	...
9	Middlesbrough ... a	...	...
11	Liverpool ... a	...	...
16	Birmingham City h	...	...
23	Luton Town ... a	...	...
30	Rotherham U. ... h	...	...
May 7		...	...

Reserve Team Fixtures - (Cheshire League)

Cheshire League Fixtures

Date 1954	Opponent	Goals F.	Goals A.
Aug. 21	Altrincham ... h	4	1
26	Rhyl ... a	0	1
28	Wrexham ... a	0	4
30	Rhyl ... h	1	0
Sept. 4	Tranmere Rovers h	4	1
8	Macclesfield ... a	0	4
11	Chester ... h	2	4
13	Macclesfield ... h	4	3
18	Stalybridge ... a	0	1
25	Witton Albion ... h	4	1
Oct. 2	Chester ... a	2	2
9	Witton Albion ... a	1	4
23	Congleton ... a	1	4
30	Buxton ... h	1	2
Nov. 13	Runcorn ... h	2	0
20	Bangor City ... a	2	5
27	Ellesmere Port ... h	3	1
Dec. 4	Buxton ... a	...	...
11	Northwich ... h	...	...
18	Winsford ... a	...	...
25	Stockport ... h	...	...
27	Stockport ... a	...	...

Cheshire League Fixtures

Date 1955	Opponent	Goals F.	Goals A.
Jan. 1	Wrexham ... h	...	...
8	Mossley ... h	...	...
15	Tranmere Rovers a	...	...
22	Ellesmere Port ... a	...	...
29	Northwich ... a	...	...
Feb. 5	Bangor City ... h	...	...
12	Runcorn ... a	...	...
19	Wellington ... h	...	...
26	Congleton ... h	...	...
Mar. 5	Mossley ... a	...	...
12	Winsford ... h	...	...
19	Stafford Rangers a	...	...
26	Hyde United ... h	...	...
Apr. 2	Altrincham ... a	...	...
9	Crewe Alex. ... h	...	...
11	Crewe Alex. ... a	...	...
16	Wellington ... a
23	Stalybridge ... h
30	
May 7	
	Stafford Rangers h
	Hyde United ... a

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3
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4
Mullard

5
Hayward

6
Sproson

7
Askey

8
Leake

9
Barber

10
Smith

11
Cunliffe

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10
Cummins

9
Morton

8
Turner

7
Davies

6
Shanks

5
Owen

4
Pemberton

3
Aherne

2
Dunne

1
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M	Portsmouth
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O	Sheffield Wednesday
P	Newcastle
Q	Sunderland
R	Manchester City
S	Tottenham
T	Everton
U	Wolverhampton
V	Chelsea
W	Blackburn
X	Leeds
Y	Bristol Rovers
Z	Stoke
	Derby
	Lincoln
	Doncaster
	Hull
	Fulham
	Notts. Forest
	Liverpool
	Middlesbrough
	Notts. County
	Birmingham
	Plymouth
	Rotherham
	Swansea
	Ipswich
	West Ham
	Bury
	Crewe
	Scunthorpe
	Chesterfield
	Wrexham
	Grimsby
	Oldham

PLAYER'S APPEARANCES

	1st team	2nd team
Askey, C.	19	...
Austin, R.	...	3
Bailey, J.	...	...
Barber, L.	...	12
Bennett, A.	3	9
Bould, D.	...	13
Bradshaw, R.	...	...
Brien, R.	...	11
Burrows, G. H.	...	...
Burton, A.	...	...
Cheadle, T.	16	...
Conway, F.	...	10
Cunliffe, J.	17	...
Donaldson, D.	...	1
Elsby, J.	...	14
Finney, J. T.	...	...
Fitzgerald, R.	...	3
Fol'ons, P.	...	1
Griffiths, K. J.	12	1
Hancock, C. R.	...	16
Harrison	...	4
Hayward, C. B.	17	...
Higgs, K.	...	14
Hough	...	5
Hulligan, M. J.	...	16
King, R.	19	...
Leake, A.	19	...
Mountford, D.	...	14
Mullard, A. T.	16	...
Oliver, R.	...	...
Poole J. A. F.	...	...
Potts, R.	19	...
Rowe, N.	...	5
Smith, S. J.	8	9
Sproson, R.	19	...
Tomkinson, D.	4	7
Turner, S.	19	...
Whalley, S. D.	...	...
Wharton, A.	...	2
Willdigg, P. G.	...	12
Wintle, F.	...	5

GOAL SCORERS

	1st team	2nd team
Sproson	1	...
Hulligan	...	2
Smith	2	8
Willdigg	...	4
Tomkinson	...	1
Leake	4	...
Barber	...	9
Donaldson	...	1
Hayward	6	...
Cunliffe	4	...
Askey	2	...
Griffiths	1	...
Hough	...	1
Conway	...	4
Wintle	...	1
Mullard	1	...

After the match have tea



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IN TOMORROW'S

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Our Visitors — Luton Town

The Luton Town Football Club was founded in 1885 as an amateur body and entered full professional status as early as 1891; the Town lay claim to the first professional body in the south of England.

In 1894 they became one of the original members of the Southern League and finished second to Millwall Athletic. In 1896 Luton applied for membership of the Football League, inaugurated in 1888. They were not elected, however, until the following year, when they were received into the Second Division. In that year they finished eighth, then fifteenth and in season 1899/1900 next to the bottom.

Support on these last two seasons was very poor and the Club almost passed out of existence. Luton felt that a return to the Southern League would be more beneficial in every way so they made application and were accepted. The Club was registered as a public company in 1897.

Luton applied to join the Third Division (Southern Section) on its formation in 1920 and in their first season finished ninth and in the following two seasons fourth and fifth. They had many ups and downs until 1934/35 when they finished fourth, in 1935/36, second to Coventry City and in 1936/37 came their greatest triumph when they secured promotion to the Second Division. In that season they won 27 matches, lost 11, drew 4 and scored 103 goals against 53. Joe Payne shared the honour of being the highest goalscorer that season with 55. Incidentally, Payne scored a record number of goals—10—in the match against Bristol Rovers in 1936.

Last season Luton recovered well from a distressing start (one success in eight games) and ultimately finished in the sixth position with 48 points. Away from home they won 7 games, drew 5 and lost 9. The long absence of Pye seemed to handicap the forwards, but a compensating feature was the rise of centre half Owen to International rating. His commanding form was recognised in an Inter-League fixture and an immaculate display led to selection for England's International programme abroad.

In the F.A. Cup last season Luton took the holders, Blackpool, to four meetings before going out 2 - 0 in a replay at Wolverhampton.

Luton Town have been called upon on a number of occasions to provide players to represent their country. Older supporters may remember Bob Hawkes. In 1921 while still a member of the Third League, three Luton players were chosen to represent their country in the same match at Belfast; Mathieson and Bookman for Ireland and Simms (centre forward) for England. Aherne has represented Eire at left back for a number of years and Owen and Streton have played for England.

Luton's ground is in Kenilworth Road and the attendance record is 28,433 versus Arsenal in 1952.

They are under the management of Mr. D. Duncan of Derby County fame and with whom he gained a cup winner's medal and nine Scottish International caps.

Continued on Page 14

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BURSLEM

R. BAYNHAM (Goalkeeper). In his fourth season with the Club. Secured from the Southern League club Worcester City. After a series of brilliant displays in the Reserves this season was promoted to the League side on 13th November.

S. DUNNE (Right Back). Hails from County Wicklow, Eire. Joined Luton from Shelbourne in May, 1950. Has played for his country on several occasions and forms an all-Eire full-back partnership with Bud Aherne.

T. AHERNE (Left Back). Born in Limerick, Eire. Came to Luton from Belfast Celtic in March, 1949, and has already played in 22 International matches for his country. He is a stylish back and a favourite of the crowd.

J. PEMBERTON (Right Half). Was chosen for the right half berth vacated by Morton and is filling the bill admirably. Is a most useful utility player and since he joined Luton in 1947 has played in every position, except goal and outside right.

S. OWEN (Centre Half). Captain of the side today. Previously with Birmingham City. Toured Australia with the F.A. three years ago, was a member of the football league team which played in Copenhagen in May, 1953, and was in the England party in Switzerland for the World Cup games this summer.

W. SHANKS (Left Half). Born in Malta.

In his eighth season with the Club. Was signed as an outside right but was successfully converted to a wing half. Tireless worker.

R. DAVIES (Outside Right). A South African signed by Clyde during their tour of South Africa in 1948, and later transferred to Luton in May, 1951. He is a go-ahead type of wing man.

G. TURNER (Inside Right). A Doncaster boy recommended to Luton whilst playing in Navy football and signed forms upon demob in March, 1950. Scored 16 goals last season and his total to date for this season is 14, including a hat-trick against Blackburn on Saturday last.

R. MORTON (Centre Forward). Local boy who signed professional forms in February 1946. Usually a brilliant wing half and frequently tipped for honours in this position, but since transfer of Jesse Pye to Derby County has taken over the centre forward role with equalled success.

G. CUMMINS (Inside Left). Another Irishman secured by Luton for a five figure fee from Everton in August, 1953. A brilliant ball player and has already played for Eire versus Norway this season.

J. ADAM (Outside Left). Signed by Luton from the northern Club, Spennymoor United in June, 1953. Has played in every league match so far this season and has scored 9 goals.

THE LEAGUE TABLE—DIVISION II

(Up to and including Saturday, November 27th, 1954)

	HOME					AWAY					Pts.
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F. A.	W.	D.	L.	F. A.		
Blackburn	19	8	1	0	41 12...	4	1	5	21 24...	26	
Fulham	19	7	1	1	27 13...	4	2	4	21 25...	25	
STOKE CITY	19	5	3	2	15 7...	5	1	3	14 11...	24	
Rotherham	19	7	1	2	29 14...	4	1	4	17 20...	24	
Leeds United	19	5	2	3	19 16...	6	0	3	16 17...	24	
Bristol Rovers	19	8	2	0	32 8...	2	1	6	15 26...	23	
Luton Town	19	9	0	1	28 12...	2	1	6	13 19...	23	
West Ham	19	6	2	1	22 11...	3	2	5	15 24...	22	
Hull City	19	5	1	4	17 11...	3	3	0	6 9...	20	
Birmingham	18	6	2	1	23 9...	1	3	5	8 12...	19	
Bury	19	4	3	3	20 13...	3	2	4	18 18...	19	
Swansea	19	7	2	0	26 9...	1	1	8	10 30...	19	
Notts. County	19	5	2	2	17 12...	3	1	6	11 21...	19	
Liverpool	19	7	2	1	26 15...	0	2	7	14 24...	18	
Lincoln	19	4	3	3	21 19...	3	1	5	15 19...	18	
Middlesbrough	19	5	0	4	19 13...	2	2	6	9 29...	16	
Notts. Forest	19	4	0	6	15 15...	3	1	5	11 13...	15	
Doncaster	17	5	1	1	12 7...	2	0	8	12 33...	15	
PORT VALE	19	3	3	3	11 12...	1	3	6	10 25...	14	
Plymouth	19	3	2	5	14 18...	0	3	6	13 21...	11	
Ipswich	20	4	0	6	21 18...	1	1	8	10 28...	11	
Derby County	19	3	1	5	20 20...	1	2	7	10 27...	11	

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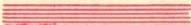
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