

ONE POINT FROM THREE GAMES

Finnicking Forwards And Shaky Defence

(By CRUSADER)

Luton Town have gathered one point of a possible six from their Easter programme. That way lies relegation, but there is still a splendid chance of escape provided the team can rise to the occasion in the next two home games.

Play will have to be sharpened up considerably, however, if Swansea and Newcastle are to be defeated, and one hardly dare hope for success in the other engagement at Norwich.

In none of the three games played this Eastertide has the team played up to the standard required. At Nottingham on Friday the defence did very well indeed, but was shaky and unreliable at Fulham on Saturday, and very little better in the home game on Easter Monday.

Difference between the Town defence and others is the quality of the covering up and the ability to recover among the halves—the faculty of perpetual motion such as was shown by the Forest half-backs, who never ceased from fighting for the ball.

Nevertheless, the chief blame for losses must be placed with the forwards, and especially the inside forwards, who could work the ball through again and again and then fail badly. Lack of thrust and thoroughness and of finishing power generally were the deplorable features, and these must be remedied if the Club is to escape relegation.

Individual criticism must be discounted at this time, but if the distinctions must be made, Coen on Friday, Dolman on Monday, Nelson in all games and Stephenson should be exempt from criticism, because they showed the right spirit and reached a standard which, if not too good for the Second Division, was certainly good enough to win matches.

AT NOTTINGHAM .

NOTTS FOREST 1
(Surtees)

LUTON TOWN 0

NOTTS FOREST: Ashton; Trim, Munro; McCall, Graham, Baxter; Dyson, Roberts, Martin, Surtees, Brown.

LUTON TOWN: Coen; Strathie, Lutterloch; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Ferguson, Connelly, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee: G. Hamilton Jones, London.

Of this game it can faithfully be said that Luton have never had throughout the season better chances to win a game and neglected them so consistently.

Forest started off well and gained a goal through SURTEES after a corner had been yielded by Lutterloch owing to an error of misunderstanding. Thereafter, although the Forest made many raids and missed several chances, Luton had much the better of the game, and pressed for long periods in each half.

The forwards failed in the most extraordinary fashion, notable sinners in respect of marksmanship being Vinall, Connelly and Ferguson. Stephenson was the outstanding player of the game, and had not played better in any match during his term with the Town.

Again and again Stephenson swept through, either with the assistance of Roberts and Fellowes, or by clever footwork, and rarely did he fail to use a ball to advantage, but the inside forwards missed the several opportunities he created, and in the end could not get a goal.

Strathie played his first game with the seniors, being at right-back, and although lacking polish, he played a fair game, and did not let the side down. Lutterloch also did very well, and Nelson was a grand pivot. Fellowes was fine at half, but Finlayson not so good, and of the forwards Roberts was a hard worker without success, and Stephenson was the star of the game.