

Draw At Sheffield Kept Up Town's Average

[By Chiltern]

A POINT from their match with Sheffield Wednesday enabled the Town to retain their record of having taken 50 per cent. of the points during their holiday programme.

Not an outstanding effort, perhaps, but quite commendable in view of the fact that two of the three matches were away from home.

The encounters with West Ham ended all square, each team winning at home by 2—1, and at Sheffield the Town were in sight of their third away win of the season until the Wednesday equalised three minutes from the end.

There was an even more exciting finish to the home match with West Ham on Boxing Day, when Waugh snatched the winning goal in the last minute.

Odd-Goal Bogey Again

WEST HAM 2
LUTON TOWN 1

After a hard struggle at Upton Park on Christmas Day the Town had to submit to their sixth defeat by the odd goal since the start of the season.

The Hammers began in confident style, and PAYNE gave them the lead after eight minutes, after Bywater had failed to hold a terrific shot from Wood.

It was some time before Luton began to hit their best form, but they were on level terms at the interval through a goal by DUNCAN, who beat Taylor from an acute angle.

The second half saw the Town in quite a favourable light, and Billington went very close to giving them the lead.

However the Hammers kept swinging the ball about, but the way in which they regained the lead midway through the half was unexpected.

FREE KICK BROUGHT WINNER

Gardiner was penalised for a foul on Payne, and WOODGATE, taking the kick from 20 yards' range, drove the ball low just inside the near post.

This brought fresh endeavours from the Town, but although Driver and Billington produced good shots, Taylor was not seriously troubled.

More directness and better finishing in attack might have enabled them to save a point.

Duncan was the best of the forwards, and Cooke and Gager stood out in a defence which was often worried by the concerted rushes of the Hammers' forwards.

WEST HAM—Taylor; Banner, Forde; Cater, Walker, Small; Woodgate, Hall, Payne, Wood, Bainbridge.

LUTON TOWN — Bywater; Cooke, Beach; Goodyear, Gager, Gardiner; Waugh, Driver, Billington, Daniel, Duncan.

Late Winner By Waugh

LUTON TOWN 2
WEST HAM 1

Although they had by far the greater share of the play in the return match on Boxing Day, it began to look as if the Town would drop a home point.

In the first half they had got away to a good start through a goal by BILLINGTON after 25 minutes, but PAYNE put the Hammers on level terms five minutes later. He went very near to adding another, but Cooke headed off the goal line after Bywater had made a grand save from Wood.

The second half saw Luton attacking almost incessantly. The forwards' approach work, helped by strong half-back play, was good—often brilliant, but they simply could not find loopholes through a packed defence.

TAYLOR WAS IN FORM

When they did so, there was always Taylor, who gave a brilliant display, barring the way.

The Hammers' attacks were limited to breakaway, mostly by Parsons, but the 22,200 spectators had become resigned to the loss

of a point until a final desperate raid ended in Taylor partly saving from Daniel, and WAUGH driving the rebound into the net.

The Hammers' defence put up a tremendous fight, but they were aided by some indifferent finishing. Wingers, Waugh and Duncan, took the main honours in attack, and Daniel was the best of the inside forwards.

There was little wrong with the defence, in which Sanderson overcame the handicap of an injured knee in the pluckiest fashion.

LUTON TOWN: Bywater; Cooke, Sanderson; Soo, Gager, Gardiner; Waugh, Driver, Billington, Daniel, Duncan.

WEST HAM: Taylor; Bicknell, Forde; Cater, Walker, Small; Parsons, Wood, Payne, Wright, Bainbridge.

Defence Had A Gruelling

SHEFFIELD WED. 1
LUTON TOWN 1

The Town defence had a gruelling time at Hillsborough on Saturday when the Wednesday team made a desperate attempt to improve their mediocre record.

Attacking from the start, they held the initiative almost throughout the first half, but found the Town defence in rugged mood, and Bywater equal to dealing with shots from all angles.

Swing the ball about and showing plenty of dash, the Wednesday had their chances of taking a substantial lead, but the Town held out, and nearly turned round a goal ahead.

Goodfellow just managed to reach a grand shot from Daniel, and Billington got the ball into the net only to be ruled offside.

In the first half, the Wednesday had received a certain amount of aid from a strong wind which dropped appreciably after the interval.

DANIEL SHOWED THE WAY

They continued to have more of the play, and Bywater was given plenty of opportunity to show his worth. Some of his full-length saves were superb.

Towards the end, the Town began to show some forcefulness in attack, and a fine movement ended with DANIEL beating Goodfellow with a rising shot.

This seemed to take all the fight out of the Wednesday, and for a time, Luton had things very much their own way. Further goals were always a possibility, but with only three minutes to go, the Wednesday threw everything into a last effort to save a point.

Slynn made ground on the left, and beating Cooke somewhat fortunately, squared the ball to WARD who brought it under control, and placed it well out of Bywater's reach.

Next to Bywater, Cooke and Gager did best in a defence which covered extremely well throughout. The others played their part, but the forwards were below their best, though their chances were few and far between.

SHEFFIELD WED.: Goodfellow; Westlake, Swift; Logan, Packard, Wands; Froggatt, Ward, Hunt, Lowes, Slynn.

LUTON TOWN: Bywater; Cook, Beach; Soo, Gager, Gardiner; Waugh, Daniel, Billington, Driver, Duncan.