

Town, Below Form, Fail To Lay Burnley Bogey

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1

Driver

BURNLEY 3

Potts (2), Harrison

A home defeat at once takes on much more serious proportions than does one on an opponent's ground.

However, the Town's display was so much below what we know they can do that I think we can write it off as just one of those things that happen every now and then.

Burnley have certainly had by far the better of the meetings between the teams this season, and in this match they adapted themselves more readily to the rather difficult conditions.

Burnley were much the superior side in the first half, when they moved the ball about with a precision that was too much for the Town.

When POTTS crowned a clever inter-passing movement with Harrison to give them the lead after 32 minutes, it was no more than they deserved.

Most of the Town's attempts to make ground came to a premature end against the robust tackling of the Burnley defence, who gave nothing away and whose positioning was always first-class.

BILLINGTON NEARLY DID IT

Almost the only real scoring opportunity of the first half fell to Billington, who rounded Brown, but fired across the goal. He nearly atoned with a terrific drive which Strong turned round the post.

The Town showed considerable improvement in the early part of the second half, and Burnley looked distinctly worried when DRIVER capped a movement begun by a clever clearance by Streten and carried on by Waugh. The inside-left took the ball through smartly and drove it well out of Strong's reach.

This goal put life back into the game, and with 22 minutes to go, there was quite a chance that the Town might go on to win. However, the turning-point came 14 minutes from the end, when Waugh was surprisingly penalised after charging Chew.

Attwell placed the free-kick so well that POTTS had merely to nod his head to turn the ball past Streten.

After that, Burnley were never in danger of losing a point, and the match was won and lost before HARRISON scored a third goal after good work by Morris in the closing minutes.

BURNLEY WERE BETTER TOGETHER

Burnley were always better together than were the Town. They moved quickly into position and continually made the ball do the work. Another difference between the teams was that the visitors were always moving to meet the ball, whereas the Town players were waiting for it too often.

The attack was ragged and lacked understanding. Billington was the most dangerous, but both inside forwards had an off-day, and Shanks and Waugh were given little scope.

Gager was the pick of the defence, and neither Soo nor Gardiner ever really mastered the Burnley inside men. Gardiner was the more successful.

An injury cut down Cooke's effectiveness, but he stuck to his job gamely. Lake did many good things, but was apt to give Chew too much room in which to work, and the winger made the best use of this advantage.

Streten effected some spectacular saves, and was most confident, though he was not entirely blameless when the third goal was scored.

LUTON TOWN: B Streten; Cooke, Lake; Soo, Gager, Gardiner; Shanks, Duggan, Billington, Driver, Waugh.

BURNLEY: Strong; Woodruff, Mather; Attwell, Brown, Bray; Chew, Morris, Harrison, Potts, Hays.

Referee: H T Wright, Macclesfield.

Attendance: 18,363.