

Town Save Point After An Uphill Struggle

[By Chiltern]

LUTON TOWN 1

Waugh

COVENTRY CITY 1

Lowrie

From the first minute of this match at Kenilworth-road the Town were fighting an uphill struggle to avoid defeat.

As early as that, they faced a goal deficit, for the City were away to a flying start which gave them an advantage which the Town found hard to neutralise.

Opposed by a dour defence, the forwards simply could not obtain the equaliser until 14 minutes from the end when most of the 13,686 spectators present were beginning to think that the dramatic opening goal was all they were going to see scored that day.

Then, "Dally" Duncan, recalled to the League side after a spell in the Reserves, made one of his famous dribbles which he ended by doubling back and swinging over a perfectly judged centre.

The ball curled towards the far post, and WAUGH, who had run in, did the rest, with Wood hopelessly placed.

This equalised the goal. LOWRIE had obtained in the first serious attack of the match when he fired in a shot from near the edge of the penalty area. Streten got both hands to the ball, but could not hold it, and it dropped over his head into the net.

The goalkeeper may have been unsighted, or there may have been a slight deflection, for the ball travelled through a crowd of players.

For a long time the Town could not settle down, and when they did begin to have a share of the play the finishing of the forwards was poor, and few shots were produced.

BILLINGTON NEARLY WON THE MATCH

The Town had more of the play in the second half, but still could not make much of the City's defence, who were given time to cover and break up raids because the Town tended to keep the ball too close.

Even so, Billington, after moving to centre-forward, came within inches of winning the match, with a grand shot which passed just the wrong side of the post.

Despite the return of the regular half-back line, the Town were well below normal form. None of the halves was at his best, and there was a lack of bite and punch about the attack.

Duncan did as well as anyone in this department. Billington livened up things considerably when he took over the leadership of the line. Driver was a whole-hearted trier, and Connelly did many clever things. Waugh had rather a poor day, and was held by Elliott, who, after the match, discovered that he had broken a rib.

Both Cooke and Lake were successful in holding up their opposing wingers, and Streten was as cool and accomplished as usual, though on the surface it seemed as if he might have prevented the early goal.

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

COVENTRY CITY: Wood; Tooze, Elliott; Barratt, Cox, Dearson; Simpson, Bett, Lowrie, Roberts, Aldecoa.

Referee: C. J. Barrick, Northampton.