

Town Put Up A Gallant Fight At Sheffield

By Chiltern

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1

Dailey

LUTON TOWN 0

The season's record crowd of 40,297 at Hillsborough had almost given up hope of the Wednesday scoring when nine minutes from the end, the first defensive slip made by the Town brought a goal which, by then, was completely unexpected.

Had goals come in the first half, no one would have been surprised, but after hammering away without success, the home side seemed to lose heart in the second half, and, once again, the Town seemed likely to walk away with a valuable point.

The minutes were flying fast and the Town defenders really had the measure of the Wednesday attack. To make things brighter from the Luton point of view, their forwards were worrying away and a goal to them had become quite a possibility.

Then, all at once, a Wednesday raid developed in midfield, and the ball was booted to the left. Woodhead and Gager went for it together. Gager tried to kick away, but did not force it past the winger, who gained control in a trice and slipped a pass to DAILEY.

STRETEN TOOK A SEVERE KNOCK

He had little to do but to boot it into an empty net. Had Streten not received such a severe knock that he had to leave the field for eight minutes in the early part of the second half, he would probably have had this ball.

Either he would have been out to collect, or would have shouted for a back pass from Gager. As it was, still feeling the effects of the injury, he did not trust himself to do either. Gager sliced his clearance kick and that gave Woodhead his opportunity.

The Town fought back gallantly for a late equaliser, but although Billington severely tested Morton on two occasions, it did not come.

Still, they put up a tremendous fight all through the match, and even weathered the storm when they were depleted through Streten's absence, and Owen took over in goal. Incidentally, Owen made one spectacular one-handed save which brought down the house.

Curiously enough, the Town's nearest approach to a goal came just before the interval when Daniel broke through, drew Morton from goal and shot hard. The goalkeeper just managed to take some of the sting out of the shot, and Turton came, apparently from nowhere, to kick the ball away from the empty goal.

The Wednesday were most prodigal with their chances during this half, but all credit must go to the Town defence. Streten gave a heroic display and was finely covered by Cooke, Gager and Hughes.

The wing halves, mostly forced back on the defensive, did well, but the forwards were again disappointing, and only Billington really troubled the home defenders.

Daniel and Connelly did good work in midfield, but the wingers, suffering to a certain extent from lack of support, seldom provided the goods in the shape of centres. Still, it was not a fair first test of Duggan's capabilities as a winger.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: Morton; Westlake, Swift; Witcomb, Turton, Cockroft; Slynn, Quigley, Dailey, Froggatt, Woodhead.

LUTON TOWN: B. Streten; Cooke, Hughes; Soo, Gager, Owen; Duggan, Daniel, Billington, Connelly, Waugh.