

Goalless Spell Ends, But No Points For Town

By Chiltern

MILLWALL 3

Hurrell (2), Woodward

LUTON TOWN 1

Daniel

Goals and the Town have become such strangers during the past month that when Daniel drove the ball into the Millwall net 11 minutes after the interval, the whole team must have felt a certain satisfaction that the barren spell was ended.

However, there was little else about which to be enthusiastic in this latest performance, and the goal came only when the side was already facing a 3-0 deficit

Yet, as could be the case in most matches, the result might well have been otherwise, for the Town began in such a smooth manner that I thought that there was a real chance of recording a much-needed win.

Millwall's defence was in much difficulty in the opening period, and it came as a shock when they made a sortie to the other end to open the score after 14 minutes through HURRELL.

That comparatively early goal was probably the turning point. If everything did not hinge on that, then the second goal five minutes from the interval more or less settled the whole affair.

This was headed by WOODWARD after Cooke and Streten had apparently left the duty of clearing Mansfield's corner to each other.

On the run of the play, a two goals lead to Millwall at the interval was almost ludicrous, but, at the same time, the home side had always impressed as a sharp-shooting combination, whereas the Town were seldom dangerous near goal.

LUCKY THIRD GOAL FOR MILLWALL

Whatever prospects there were of a sensational Luton revival in the second half were dimmed completely when HURRELL obtained a third goal five minutes after the re-start. He was lucky that the goal counted, for he pushed Gager, who collided with Streten, and this gave him the opening.

DANIEL put new life into the game momentarily when he took a pass from Soo and easily beat Purdie from close range.

The Town made quite a lot of raids after this, but few promised much in the way of success, and Millwall's less artistic, but more effective attacks, were always the more likely to bring results.

For once in a way, the Town defence had its uncertain moments, due mainly to the go-ahead, bustling play of the home forwards, who hit the ball about disconcertingly and were never afraid to have a bang at goal.

These methods quite often revealed holes in the Town's defensive formation, and Gager found Jinks a tough handful. Hughes did well, and Cooke, who faced the more dangerous winger, managed to hold his own.

Owen, a hard worker, had a good match, but Soo, not so immaculate in his passing as usual, fell away in the second half when an ankle injury asserted itself. Streten suffered from the general unsettledness in front of him, but yet managed to pull off some magnificent saves.

Star of a forward line again lacking in drive was Brennan, making his first appearance at outside right for the Town. He quickly settled down here, and showed brilliant footwork and the ability to use the ball.

Driver was not a capable deputy for Billington and both inside forwards tended to keep the ball too close, though Connelly was the most frequent marksman in the line. Waugh finished weakly and thus wasted some clever approach work.

MILLWALL: Purdie; Tyler, Fisher; Davies, McMillan, Brown; Johnson, Hurrell, Jinks, Woodward, Mansfield.

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