

Town's Second-Half Rally Shook The Hammers

By Chiltern

WEST HAM	0
LUTON TOWN	0

Over 30,000 people saw a remarkable transformation occur in the second half of this match at Upton Park. Before the interval the Town, although they withstood heavy pressure, were apparently heading for defeat.

They had been in the game as an attacking force only on rare occasions, but there was a different story altogether after the interval, and it is questionable who were the most surprised, the West Ham players or their supporters.

At any rate, they saw the Town strike form at which they had no more than hinted in the first half, and the Hammers' defence had to take something of the same strafing that the Town's had borne earlier.

In the end, a draw was a result with which few would want to quibble, but both teams had their chances to win the match.

Most of West Ham's came before the interval, when two drives by Parsons nearly put them ahead.

When the Town had their purple patch, Daniel struck Gregory with a terrific drive from point-blank range, and then Duggan was unlucky with a shot which lifted just too high.

IN THE NET—DISALLOWED

The only time the ball went into the net was in the closing stages, when Woodgate shot through after Parsons had hit the post. The referee promptly disallowed the point for offside.

The defence took nearly all the honours for Luton and Streten, Cooke, Hughes and Gager formed an almost impenetrable barrier.

West Ham's attack would have been even more effective had not the full-backs watched their wingers so closely and had not Gager kept such a tight grip on Travis.

Streten covered himself with glory, and Soo and Cwen struggled hard to stem the flowing tide in the first half. Later, they found their task much easier, and were seen to good advantage.

The forwards did little in the opening phase, but were responsible for some fine approach work in the second half when they moved the ball quickly and accurately.

However, the finishing was not quite good enough to produce the necessary goal, and this applied to the whole line. They were not alone in this, for the Hammers failed at close quarters, too.

WEST HAM: Gregory, Neomanson, Forde; Corbett, Walker, Moroney; Woodgate, Parsons, Travis, Wright, Wood.

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

Referee: L. E. Gibbs, Reading.