

Town Faded Out After A Promising Start

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1

Duggan

BURY 1

Jones

This match promised much in the opening stages, then gradually worked itself down the scale and finally fizzled out in the most boring second half I have seen this season.

A strangely silent crowd of 17,249 watched the Town lose their grip on the game and then drop a point after they had brought some warmth into the proceedings by taking the lead after 64 minutes.

After escaping in near-miraculous fashion in the first minute when N. Berry failed to tap the ball into an empty net, the Town settled down to give the visitors' defence a trying time, mainly through the ability of Brennan to find a way through.

The Irishman had a brilliant spell at the beginning of the game, and his centres might well have brought the goals which would have put the Town on the way to a comfortable victory.

Then, when he had established himself as Bickerstaffe's master, he was neglected to such an extent that he was rarely brought into the game.

That was the Town's biggest mistake, and having failed to make use of their early chances, they seemed to lose confidence in their ability to score goals.

However, the Town seemed to have staked their claim to both points when DUGGAN managed to hook a centre from Waugh over Grieves's head into the net.

Bury, switching their forward line constantly, kept breaking away hopefully, but could scarcely have hoped for such a gift goal as was presented to them.

With 15 minutes to go, they went through on the left, and Streten, after picking up from Keeley, lost his hold on the greasy ball. He went down in a heap, and the ball was slipped through to JONES, who banged it home from close range.

The forwards were disappointing, and only Brennan and, to a lesser extent, Duggan enhanced their reputations. Neither Billington nor Daniel made the openings which were needed, and Waugh was patchy and guilty of indifferent finishing.

Gager and Hughes were the pick of a defence which was as much troubled by the greasy, fast-travelling ball and the uncertain foothold as by the Bury forwards.

Soo had a good first half, but was little in the picture afterwards, and Gardiner, though trying hard, did not touch the form he showed in the League side last season. Cooke came through a difficult task creditably, but Streten was not quite so confident as usual.

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

BURY.—Grieves; Griffiths (G.), Bickerstaffe; Griffiths (W.), Hart, Halton; Kilshaw, Jones, N. Berry, Keeley, Carter.