

Town Had Artistry And Fight, But No Punch

By Chiltern

SOUTHAMPTON 3

Curtis, Wayman, Ellerington
(pen.)

LUTON TOWN 1

Soo

The fans at The Dell were not unduly surprised at the quality of the football which the Town produced, for they have had samples of it before, but what did surprise them was the present lowly League position held by a side capable of showing what really did amount to artistry at times.

At least, they perhaps wondered at that until they considered how many of the Town's attacks fizzled out like a damp squib, or how those which reached scoring range suddenly ended with a tame shot or one which was well wide of the mark.

On the run of the play in this match, the least the Town should have gained was one point, but they have only themselves to blame for the defeat, and a somewhat experimental Southampton side won because they showed the capacity to take their chances.

The Town provided the entertainment in the matter of skill, but the Saints produced that little extra snap in front of goal. They were a little more direct in their methods, too, and their first goal after 12 minutes was not entirely unexpected.

Cooke headed out a corner towards the touch-line, where Wrigglesworth regained possession and lobbed the ball into the middle. CURTIS must have been surprised at finding himself unmarked at a range of about five yards, but he did not allow that to interfere with his aim, and Streten had no chance.

When the Town settled down, they threatened the home goal almost continually until two minutes from the interval, when a sudden raid by the Saints brought them their second goal.

REFEREE THOUGHT OTHERWISE

Gardiner essayed a back pass to Streten which was intercepted by WAYMAN, who speedily rammed the ball into the net. The Town players held that Wayman had handled in stopping the ball going through, but the referee thought otherwise.

What everybody did appreciate in the second half was the plucky way in which the Town fought back against the odds. They penned in the Saints for long periods in an all-out series of raids which still failed to produce goals.

Then Soo was rather harshly penalised for a foul on Wayman, and from the penalty spot ELLERINGTON put the Saints three up.

Back came the Town, and with only three minutes remaining SOO obtained a consolation goal from a free kick by Hughes. The Town fought harder than ever after that, and two shots from Driver deserved a better fate.

On approach work alone, the forwards earn high marks, but the marksmanship was poor. Driver was the best of the line after he had moved to inside-right, and both Brennan and Waugh did useful work on the wings.

Duggan was an earnest trier, both at inside-right and centre-forward, and Connelly, while adding to the skilful qualities of the line, did not bring punch.

Soo and Gardiner backed up the second-half rally in grand style. The latter was at his best, and was more effective in defence than was Soo.

Cooke and Hughes were in good form, but Gager, though he generally held Lewis, was drawn out of position rather more than is usual. Streten could not be faulted, and was always very confident.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Stansbridge; Ellerington, Ramsay; Bates, Clements, Mallett; Scott, Curtis, Lewis, Wayman, Wrigglesworth.

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

Referee: G Clark, London.