

Two Quick Goals Turned The Tide For The Town

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2

Brennan, Driver

DONCASTER ROVERS 1

Calverley

Twice in the space of two minutes at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, Ferguson, the Rovers' goalkeeper, had the mortification of picking the ball out of the back of the net.

That brought the culmination of a terrific Luton rally which enabled them to gain two badly-needed points and to retain their cherished record of not having been beaten at home.

There had seemed real danger of that distinction being lost, for the Rovers gave a first-half display completely out of keeping with their lowly position in the table.

In fact, they seemed to throw the Town out of their stride from the start, with the result that the settling down period lasted longer than usual.

The Rovers kept the ball low and on the move, tactics which constantly drew the Town defence out of position. There were some escapes in the opening minutes, but gradually we began to see more of the home forwards and Brennan was completely out of luck with a rousing shot which struck the woodwork.

FIRST BLOOD TO ROVERS

However, the Rovers drew first blood when Streten sent a goal-kick straight to Mitcheson, who quickly passed inside to Jordan. Streten made a brilliant save from the centre-forward, but the ball rolled out to CALVERLEY who made no mistake from close range.

That was after 39 minutes not until 24 minutes later did the Town equalise when BRENNAN rushed the ball through after Ferguson had parried Billington's shot.

Two minutes later, the Town were ahead for the first time when during another melee, DRIVER cracked the ball into the net.

Subsequent play was much in the Town's favour, but there was always the possibility that the Rovers might snatch a late goal. Still, the more tense moments came at their end, and the Town forwards moved in much more workmanlike fashion during the second half.

Much of this was due to the work of Brennan, who proved a rare forager when he changed places with Driver. Of the two newcomers, Ottewell, perhaps, made the bigger impression and he was always on the look-out for goals. Still, O'Brien did enough to suggest that in him the Town have a dangerous, clever and speedy wingman.

Billington showed a great improvement on his recent form in the second half and was unlucky not to figure among the scorers.

The defence had some bad patches particularly in the first half, but came through without paying the full penalty. The accurate, first-time passing of the Rovers was always disconcerting to them, but they were better together in the second half.

Gager had some rare tussles with Jordan, who was always troublesome and no one did better than Gardiner who was always in the thick of it. Soo had a good second half and Cooke and Hughes overcame a somewhat uncertain start. Streten's one mistake cost a goal, but otherwise he was completely confident.

LUTON TOWN: B Streten; Cooke, Hughes; Soo, Gager, Gardiner; Brennan, Driver, Billington, Ottewell, O'Brien.

DONCASTER ROVERS: Ferguson; Swallow, Corbett; Stirland, Bycroft, Wands; Mitcheson, Thompson, Jordan, Todd, Calverley.