

Town Gave Disappointing Display At Newcastle

By Chiltern

NEWCASTLE UNITED		4
Milburn (3), Stobbart		
LUTON TOWN		1
O'Brien		

This could have been a great occasion. There was the biggest crowd of the day—64,931—and the Town, after their week at the seaside, were expected to make a tremendous bid to hold the mighty Newcastle.

Instead, the game had become very much a one-horse race before the second half was midway through, and it fizzled out like a damp squib.

Not that the United supporters minded much. They saw their team take another important step towards their ambition of bringing back First Division football to Tyneside.

So far as those of us from Luton were concerned, the match was a great disappointment, for just when they were expected to rise to the occasion, the team gave a very moderate showing.

Gone was the sparkle they displayed against Leeds, and with it went the understanding and cohesion which had meant so much in those two encounters.

On the day, Newcastle were much superior and they deserved their success and the margin which went with it. In fact, they had sufficient chances to have doubled their score, for openings accrued continually as the result of high-powered forward play.

Almost from the first minute, the United took command of the situation, and with the Town defence displaying early uncertainty, there were anxious moments even before they conceded their first goal.

That came after five minutes when MILBURN flashed in a terrific drive from just outside the penalty area, and the ball passed over Streten's head and entered the net off the underside of the bar.

For a long time, with the Town forwards unable to make much progress, the United called the tune, but their finishing did not match their approach work, much of which was brilliantly executed.

Then, somewhat unexpectedly, seven minutes from the interval, the Town levelled the scores. O'BRIEN slipped through a hesitating defence to tap the ball into the net after Cooke had placed a free kick well.

That success brought an improvement in the Town's play, and for a few minutes the Newcastle defence took a battering. They held out, and in a quick breakaway a minute before half-time, MILBURN shot out of Streten's reach to regain the lead for his side.

The Town had no time to gather their forces together to try for another equaliser before they were further in arrears. The second half was only a minute old when MILBURN completed an opportunist's "hat-trick" by blazing the ball past Streten again.

STOBBART'S GOAL WAS THE END

Duggan had a chance of retrieving the situation shortly afterwards, but shot just wide as he was charged heavily. However, when STOBBART put on a fourth goal after 55 minutes from Milburn's pass, most of Luton's hopes evaporated, and although they had quite a share of the subsequent play, they were never so dangerous as were the United.

Few Town players came through with enhanced reputations. Cooke had a good match and Soo and Gardiner struggled hard and quite successfully against the rising tide.

Neither Gager nor Hughes was at his best, and an unusual number of gaps was revealed. Streten, inadequately covered, had a trying time, and though he showed his customary good judgment, was not altogether free from blame for two of the goals.

Of the forwards, only O'Brien will want to remember this match. He was always the most dangerous. Much had been expected from Brennan and Ottewell, but they were seldom in the picture. They tended to hold the ball too long, made many poor passes, and never opened out the game as did the Newcastle inside men.

Duggan suffered from lack of support and the close attentions of Frank Brennan and nothing much went right for Small.

Newcastle United.—Fairbrother; Fraser, Craig; Harvey, Brennan (F.), Dodgin; Sibley, Stobbart, Milburn, Shackleton, Pearson.

Luton Town. — B. Streten; Cooke, Hughes; Soo, Gager, Gardiner; Small, Brennan (R.), Duggan, Ottewell, O'Brien.