

Town Defence Held Out Until Closing Minutes

By Chiltern

WEST BROMWICH ALBION 1
Walsh
LUTON TOWN 0

As the minutes ticked away at The Hawthorns on Saturday, the odds against the Albion breaking their long run of non-success increased.

The Town defence which had mastered the home forwards throughout the match showed no sign of wilting, and Luton seemed to have a point in the bag.

Then, with only seven minutes to go, a quick raid ended in WALSH scoring the all-important goal.

On the run of the play, the result was equable, but that was poor consolation for the Town defenders who had worked so gallantly throughout.

Had the forwards shown the same form, there is no doubt that the Town could have gone very close to winning this match, but they were frankly disappointing.

There were few combined movements of the type likely to bring goals, and most of their play was ragged and lacking in cohesion.

In an effort to produce better results, Brennan and Ottewell inter-changed positions, but this was not a success.

It was in these positions that the main Luton weakness lay. Both inclined to be too individualistic and neither produced the openings which are so essential.

O'Brien was another rather weak link in the line, and it was left to Waugh and Billington to provide most of the anxious moments for the Albion defence.

ALBION FORWARDS BETTER TOGETHER

Waugh gave another good display and Billington made the most of the poor material which came his way.

The Albion forwards were better together, but their attacks frequently came to a full-stop against the hard tackling of the Town defenders. In this department, the covering was excellent and very little was given away.

Hall made a fine job of holding Walsh, and Soo was again in his best form. Owen, returning to the team in place of Gardiner, did not reveal his early season form, though he was always a great worker.

Hughes had an excellent day and kept the dangerous Elliott quiet, while Cooke, plucky and forceful as ever, was always a stumbling block to the Albion left-wing.

In goal, Streten was at his masterly best, and saved the situation time and again by his splendid anticipation and the quick, sure way in which he picked up the ball.

The only goal came when Kinsell made a long through pass to which WALSH fastened on after brushing past Hall. Hughes was just too late to clear before the centre-forward crashed the ball past Streten.

The Town's best scoring efforts came from a Brennan header in the opening minutes and a full-blooded shot by Billington midway through the second half. Each time, Sanders saved finely.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION:
Sanders; Pemberton, Kinsell;
Millard, Vernon, Evans; Elliott,
McKennan, Walsh, Finch,
Rowley.

LUTON TOWN: Streten;
Cooke, Hughes; Soo, Hall,
Owen; Waugh, Ottewell, Billington, Brennan, O'Brien.

Referee: G. Tedds, Bestwood, Notts.