

Town's Cup Career Comes To A Disappointing End

By Chiltern

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS ... 3

Hatton, Boxshall, McEwan

LUTON TOWN 1

Waugh

The Town disappointed the largest following they have had at an away match in recent years by their failure to make Cup progress against the Rangers at Loftus-road on Saturday.

A packed, capacity crowd of 30,564, a ground record, watched a hard struggle in which the Rangers took the lead for the first time 10 minutes from the end.

Never will the Town have a better opportunity of reaching the last eight than they had in this match.

They had the advantage of scoring first which is a big thing in a Cup-tie, but failed to force this home, although the chances to do so came their way.

At the end of the first half, with the Town still clinging to the goal lead given them by WAUGH with a grand header after 14 minutes, they seemed to be more than halfway into the sixth round.

At least, so most of us reasoned, for surely with the wind in their favour, they would at least keep their heads in front.

The confidence of the Town fans was seriously disturbed when in the second minute after the interval, the Rangers levelled the scores.

There seemed no immediate danger when Cooke shaped to clear a loose ball, until he kicked it to Hartburn, who rounded the full-back and gave HATTON a chance to shoot.

His drive cannoned against the inside of the post and despite the efforts of Hughes to hook it clear, the referee decided that the ball had crossed the line.

After that, it was anybody's game, and although the Town never struck their best form, they looked good enough to force extra time at least.

In fact they came within inches of snatching the lead again when a Billington shot passed under Allen's body and was rolling into the net until the goalkeeper made a last-second dive to retrieve his mistake.

QUICK RAID BROUGHT A GOAL

Scarcely had the Rangers got over that escape than they had the ball in the net at the other end. McEwan was sent away with a clear field, and when Hall tried to flick his centre back to Streten, BOXSHALL dashed in and charged Streten and the ball over the line.

Although the referee was in a good position, he consulted a linesman before awarding a goal to the home side. It was an unsatisfactory affair altogether, and it took all the fight out of the Town.

They never seriously threatened to equalise, and their cup of sorrow was filled to overflowing in the last minute when McEWAN seized on another defensive error to score.

There were weaknesses both fore and aft in the Town team. The defence, after surviving the first-half pressure, faltered in the second half, and some of the covering was poor.

Streten could not be faulted, and Hall and Gardiner were the pick of the rest of the defence. Cooke had an off-day, and Hughes, though not at his best, was the more dependable. Soo worked tremendously hard without quite revealing his usual touch.

Waugh was the best of a forward line which never impressed as a cohesive force. Brennan did much clever work, some of which was spoilt by his tendency to individualism, and Billington, though hesitant in his finishing, was always looking for openings.

The left wing was not up to standard, and few opportunities were made in this quarter.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS:
Allen; Powell (G), Jefferson;
Powell (B), Smith, Daniels;
Boxshall, Ramscar, McEwan,
Hatton, Hartburn.

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