

Forward Failings Caused Loss Of Another Point

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1

Billington

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY ... 1

Woodhead

Forward failings with the emphasis on weakness in front of goal led to the Town having to yield a home point for the third week in succession.

Once they had settled down and overcame the early shock tactics of the Wednesday, they had far more of the play.

However, despite all their pressure, goals usually looked far away, particularly in the second half, and not until the last five minutes were the Wednesday defenders thrown out of their stride.

In their anxiety to end this unsatisfactory run at home, the Town threw everything into attack during these closing minutes, and were rather unlucky not to snatch a winner.

Previously their raids had mostly broken down before reaching the penalty area, and the Wednesday's defence, taking no risks, had been more than equal to the task.

The one man who seemed likely to get the ball into the net was Ottewell, who brought the best out of Smith on three occasions with terrific shots from the 20 yards mark.

Otherwise, the shooting of the Town forwards was poor, and Billington, in particular, was very much off the target.

In the first few minutes of the game, the Wednesday attack showed sparkling form, and it was not altogether surprising when WOODHEAD gave them the lead after 11 minutes.

Quigley made the opening by crossing the ball after Hughes, apparently in the belief that the inside-right was offside, had stood still.

Woodhead lifted the ball over Streten's head and it crossed the line off the underpart of the cross-bar.

IMPROVEMENT BROUGHT EQUALISER

The Town showed an immediate improvement after this, and BILLINGTON equalised with a low shot from the edge of the penalty area during a scramble which followed a corner.

From then until the interval, play ran in favour of the Town, though Jordan missed a glorious chance for the Wednesday when he shot against Hughes with Streten out of his goal.

Both sides missed scoring chances after this, and the defences' problems were eased by the lack of cohesion in both attacks.

Hall was an outstanding figure for the Town and held Jordan in complete subjection. Gardiner had a good match, and Soo, troubled by an injury, kept on gamely.

At the start, Cooke was worried by the speed of Woodhead, but gradually settled down to play a sound game, while Hughes was as cool and deliberate as ever—too deliberate at times for the peace of mind of some of the fans.

Streten was by no means overworked, but dealt with everything which came his way in completely confident style.

In an attack which lacked smoothness, the left wing was more dangerous than was the right, and Ottewell and Waugh took chief honours.

Daniel faded out after a bright start in which he played some grand football, and Brennan again proved that he is not suited to the extreme wing. An inter-change of positions in the second half did not bring much improvement, though.

Billington was mostly overshadowed by the strong Turton, and could not have been completely satisfied with his display on his re-appearance.

LUTON TOWN.—Streten; Cooke, Hughes; Soo, Hall, Gardiner; Brennan, Daniel, Billington, Ottewell, Waugh.

SHEFFIELD WED.—Smith; Westlake, Swift; Witcomb, Turton, Cockroft; Fox, Quigley, Jordon, Froggatt, Woodhead.