

A Deadly Marksman Was Town's Greatest Need

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1

Daniel

MILLWALL 2

Mansfield, Woodward

Had the Town possessed one deadly marksman in their attack they would have made certain of two points in this match at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

As it was, they failed dismally in their finishing, and the success of lowly Millwall brought the bottom of the table uncomfortably close to the Town's doorstep.

The Lions thus became the third team to complete a double over the Town this season, the others being Birmingham and Coventry.

In no previous match this season have the Town shown such a lack of colour, cohesion and craft. The forward line, remodelled for the occasion to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Billington, was a failure.

It never settled down as a combined force, and there was far too much individual effort, with the result that team-work suffered accordingly.

The main trouble, though, was in the finishing, and the shooting of the whole line was almost too erratic to be true.

Scoring openings occurred, but were simply frittered away, and Finlayson had a much lighter afternoon than he had any right to expect in view of the amount of play enjoyed by the Town.

Showing nippiness and the willingness to take a shot when the opportunity offered, Millwall were slightly the better team in the opening stages, and deserved the lead which MANSFIELD gave them with a header after 32 minutes.

DANIEL'S HEADER BROUGHT EQUALISER

Despite considerable pressure, there was not much promise of an equaliser from the Town until DANIEL'S head did what his colleagues' feet could not achieve, and steered the ball into the net from a well-placed free kick by Soo.

Just as we were thinking that half a loaf was better than no bread, Millwall made one of the sharp breakaway which often caused confusion among the Town defenders.

This time, Lake left Streten an impossible task to reach a through pass, and Mansfield came in to gain control. Why the winger delayed his shot so long that Lake was able to divert it for a corner we shall never know.

However, it did not matter much, for Streten saw the corner kick pass over his head after he had positioned himself badly, and WOODWARD headed through from close range.

Although there were still ten minutes to go when that happened, the Town gave no sign of mounting a successful attack for another equaliser, and the game fizzled out like a damp squib.

To describe the display as disappointing is to under-estimate the feelings of most of the 14,128 spectators. Each department showed some weakness, but those most apparent were in attack.

Ottewell gave little promise of developing into a centre-forward, and neither Duggan nor Brennan came much into the picture.

The latter did a lot of shooting which rarely promised goals, and the best of the line was Daniel. Waugh had some good spasms, but received few workable passes.

Hall and Gardiner were easily the best of the defence. Soo had an "off" day, and neither Lake nor Cooke was completely reliable against two assertive wingers.

Lake did best in the first half, when his kicking was very good. Streten was at fault when the second goal was scored, but apart from that, was seldom in real trouble.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Lake, Cooke; Soo, Hall, Gardiner; Waugh, Brennan, Ottewell, Duggan, Daniel.

MILLWALL: Finlayson; Fisher, Evans; Kelly, McMillan, Brown; Johnson, Hurrell, Anderson, Woodward, Mansfield.