

Small's Goal Was A Point-Saver

(By CHILTERN)

LUTON TOWN 1
Small

SOUTHAMPTON 1
Wayman

Although not so many goals were scored as could have been expected reasonably in view of the number of chances which fell to both teams, there was no lack of action in this match at Kenilworth-road. The drama began in the opening minutes when the Town should have obtained the goal which would have put them on the way to victory when they were awarded a penalty for hands.

The psychological effect of a goal so early would have been tremendous, but Brennan, entrusted with the kick, sent the ball crashing against the bar, and it was scrambled clear.

That gave the Saints time to consolidate a little, and after not appearing any too dangerous in the early stages, they went ahead with a snap goal after 16 minutes.

WAYMAN was left with an easy chance after Curtis had headed a pass to him from Rudkin's corner.

That made the Town's position look rather serious, since the forwards had not been incisive near goal, and there was further disappointment when SMALL missed a sitter.

However, there was quick consolation for the crowd and the winger raced on to a beautiful pass by Collins, and swung in a high shot from the neighbourhood of the touch-line which Black mis-judged and allowed to pass over his head. It entered the net off the inside of the post.

SCALES NEARLY SWUNG AGAIN

The scales nearly swung the other way a minute later when Wayman shot wide from a very easy scoring position, and the Town breathed again.

Southampton suffered the misfortune of losing Rochford, their captain, with a badly cut head for about 10 minutes early in the second half. He returned to play at outside-right, and the Saints deserve praise for the plucky way in which they stuck to their task.

Not only did they do that, but they contrived to give the Town some shocks, too, and only Streten's vigilance on two occasions foiled Wayman's bid to regain the lead.

Still, the strain began to tell on them before the end, and with the Town straining every nerve for another goal, there were some hectic scenes in the Saints' goal-mouth.

Twice Arnison missed by inches, and as the pressure rose to a crescendo, there came a final thrill when a shot from Waugh passed over Black's outstretched arms and struck the bar.

This was by no means an unsatisfactory performance by the Town, and if there had been a little better balance in attack and more steadiness in shooting, the Saints would probably have gone unrewarded.

Duggan and Waugh were the best of the forwards, with Arnison trying hard, but rarely managing to escape the attentions of Webber. Brennan had a poor day, and Small did not receive as much support as should have come his way.

Collins filled the gap left by Owen, who was unfit, in admirable fashion and, behind him, Wilson gave a brilliant display.

His partner, Lindsay, was not quite so certain against the clever Day, and Hall, though playing well, was not always on top of the tricky Wayman. Gardiner was a tireless worker, and Streten could not be faulted.

LUTON TOWN. — Streten; Wilson, Lindsay; Collins, Hall, Gardiner; Small, Brennan, Arnison, Duggan, Waugh.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Black; Ramsey. Rochford; Smith, Webber, Mallett; Day, Scott, Wayman, Curtis, Rudkin.

Referee, W. J. Muller, London.