

Town Out Of Luck, But Had No Finish

By Chiltern

BRENTFORD 2

Gibbons, Buchanan

LUTON TOWN 0

Quite a fair measure of skill, plenty of enthusiasm and fight, but not much finish and rather less luck.

That is a fairly adequate description of the Town's display at Griffin Park on Saturday when they failed to emulate their last season's feat there.

It was their thirteenth match of the season, and they might have been forgiven for thinking that there is something in this number, for certainly fortune did not smile upon them.

Luck always turns, and the Town will get their share of it before the season is out, but the goal-shyness of the forwards is a matter of more concern.

The last six matches have produced only five goals—a poor record even when the fact that four of the games have been away is taken into consideration.

On Saturday they played some excellent football in midfield only for the final pass to go astray, or for the shot which culminated a good movement to be off the mark.

At the same time, the team showed an all-round improvement especially in defence, where there was a new-found solidity which was encouraging.

What pleased the band of loyal supporters who made the trip was the return to form of Hall, who was in more masterful mood than in any previous match this season.

Doubtless, he appreciated the heavier going as did several other members of the team. Cooke and Owen also did much better and, with Gardiner and Streten playing as hard as ever, and Wilson filling the bill quite well, there was a new look in this department.

GOALS WERE UNEXPECTED

The goals which came in the space of 13 minutes in the second half were rather unexpected. The first was the result of a flick by GIBBONS when he had his back to the goal, and the second was a lob from BUCHANAN after Streten had beaten out a shot by Gibbons. Either Cooke or Owen could have headed out the latter, but in their eagerness they put each other off.

Previously, McKennan had shot weakly wide from the penalty spot after Owen was held to have handled in stopping a Gibbons rush.

Until the first goal was scored there had been little to choose between the teams. True, Brentford had a period on top afterwards, but the Town recovered so well that they had all the play at the end and gave Brentford some anxious moments.

The new right wing of Brennan and Shanks worked well. They inter-changed frequently, and the former was the most constructive of the Town forwards.

Arnison led the line capably without being incisive enough at close quarters. Waugh, perhaps, had less of the ball than has been the case recently and did not shine so brightly, while Duggan, though trying hard, did not hit his best form.

BRENTFORD: Crozier; MacDonald, Gorman; Nelson, Chisholm, Manley; Buchanan, McKennan, Gibbons, Harris, Girling.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Wilson, Cooke; Gardiner, Hall, Owen; Brennan, Shanks, Arnison, Duggan, Waugh.

Referee: E. V. Gough, Abingdon.