

Hammered, But The Defence Stood Firm

By Chiltern

WEST HAM 0

LUTON TOWN 1

Arnison

"Lucky Luton" was the cry at the end of the match at Upton Park on Saturday, and so they were to a certain extent.

Yet, the disappointed Hammers' fans in shouting those words failed to give credit where it was most due, to a stout-hearted Town defence which never knew when it was beaten.

They earned full marks for their dogged play, while none at all would go to the home forwards—at least so far as shooting was concerned.

The "lucky" label was pinned on to the Town because the Hammers pressed for such long periods and yet failed to get the ball into the net. There were some near things, but what they could not do was to beat Streten, who touched peak form in giving a faultless display of goalkeeping.

Wherever the Hammers directed their shots, there was Streten to save them, and he deserved all the congratulations and applause he received at the end.

Plaudits, too, and much praise for Hall for a stalwart, dominant display which put him right back where he was last season as one of the most competent of the younger school of centre-halves.

As things turned out, Morton could scarcely have had a more fiery ordeal for his first appearance in League football but he refused to allow anything to trouble him, and came through with great credit.

HALF-BACK STRENGTH

The Town were fortunate in the strength of their half-back line which was completed by Gardiner, looking happy to be back in his old position.

Wilson, too, did his share towards keeping a blank sheet, and so did Cooke when once he had obtained the measure of Parsons, a fast-moving, dangerous winger.

The forwards had much less opportunity to shine than did those of the home side, but that they scored a decisive goal can be taken as a good day's work for them.

Frankly, they did not have a very good first half when there were few movements which really bothered the Hammers' defence, but they were a different proposition in the second half.

The goal was brought about by a brilliant move by Brennan, who beat two opponents in a twinkling, and crossed the ball for ARNISON to do the rest.

Arnison was always a great trier, and Watkins, filling the inside-left berth for the first time in the League side, made some very shrewd passes which might easily have brought goals. A player of the thoughtful type, Watkins certainly brought added craft to the line.

Shanks was a whole-hearted worker, and produced the best shooting for Luton, but Waugh was not so lively as usual, and Brennan's sparkle was of the occasional kind, though he did not see a lot of the ball in the first half.

Once having taken the lead, the Town fought like tigers to retain it, and despite all their long periods of attacking, there were only isolated occasions when the Hammers really threatened to salvage a point.

WEST HAM: Gregory; Yeomanson, Forde; Corbett, Walker, Moroney; Parsons, Hall (A.), Wright, Dick, Woodgate.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Wilson, Cooke; Morton, Hall (L.), Gardiner; Brennan, Shanks, Arnison, Watkins, Waugh.