

# Stylish Luton Were Unlucky To Lose

*By Chiltern*

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|----------------------------|---|
| West Bromwich Albion ..... | 2 |
| (Williams, Elliott)        |   |
| Luton Town .....           | 1 |
| (Watkins)                  |   |

History repeated itself at the Hawthorns, where, for the second season in succession, the Town were beaten by a late goal just when they seemed within measureable distance of taking a point.

In this instance, consolation for the defeat, so far as the large following of Luton supporters was concerned, was contained in the quality of the display given by the Town, who gave the League leaders a rare shock.

If the Town can produce this form consistently, and there is no reason to believe this is impossible because the craftsmen are there, then the points must begin to mount up.

The newest acquisitions, Kiernan and Watkins, had much to do with the polish which the Town revealed, and in the first 20 minutes this pair, with whom Arnison linked up in splendid style, pulled the Albion defence all over the place.

Everyone was quite prepared for Kiernan needing this game to settle down, for he had been a Luton player only a matter of hours, but he fitted in as if he had been playing with his new colleagues for weeks.

Right from the start he showed brilliant footwork, and what struck me more than anything else was the clever way in which he switched the point of the attack time and again.

Watkins had an excellent game, too, and had his goal saved a point for the Town, it would have been a great reward for him.

Certainly, he will remember his first League goal for the Town, for the ball shot into the net like a rocket to equalise the one obtained by WILLIAMS, following a corner, when the game was half an hour old.

# INDOMITABLE DEFENCE

WATKINS'S equaliser came with only 15 minutes remaining for play, and a division of the spoils seemed to be in the offing, especially as the Town defence was displaying all the indomitable qualities which have been apparent in the last few matches.

Then, with only seven minutes to go came an incident in which during a scramble for the ball when Cooke was on the ground, the referee decided that it was necessary to stop the game and bounce the ball.

The luck of the bounce went the way of the Albion, for ELLIOTT gained possession and crashed the ball at goal from about 10 yards. Streten made a valiant attempt to save, but the ball rolled away from him.

Wilson tried to kick away, only to see the ball rebound from Walsh into the net. Elliott was credited with the goal, though, in point of fact, the ball had not crossed the line until Walsh touched it.

Kiernan and Watkins were the best of a line which played exhilarating football at times, but still could not quite achieve that penetrative power near goal. Arnison's finishing was not of the best, but he did his part in mid-field.

Both wingers could have afforded to cut out some of the frills in favour of more direct methods, and although they were responsible for some clever approach work, the completion of the job was not always well done.

The defence was sound with Streten, Hall and Cooke perhaps a little ahead of the others, though no one could have found much fault with Wilson, Morton and Gardiner.

Every one in this department pulled his weight. The covering was adequate, and that they held the go-ahead Albion forwards so well is sufficient indication of their efforts.

**LUTON TOWN:** Streten; Wilson, Cooke; Morton, Hall, Gardiner; Brennan, Kiernan, Arnison, Watkins, Waugh.

**WEST BROMWICH ALBION:** Sanders; Pemberton, Kinsell; Millard, Vernon, Hood; Elliott, Williams, Walsh, Haines, Hodgetts.

Referee: J. Williams, Bolton.