

Wilson Hit The Target

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE ... 1
Boyd

LUTON TOWN 1
Wilson

Facing an Argyle side at Home Park on Monday desperately anxious to please their biggest crowd of the season, 33,000, the Town had to battle every inch of the way to retain a point.

This was not the football epic which would have graced the occasion, and which might have been expected from two teams with a reputation for clever, constructive football.

Instead, we saw a grim struggle for supremacy in which the Town defence took a large share of the honours. Admittedly, they had their slices of luck as when Astall with all the goal to shoot at, hit the underpart of the cross bar and saw the ball bounce straight into Streten's hands.

That was early in the game, and the Town profited from their let-off to the extent of taking the lead with one of the most amazing goals I have seen this season.

Not often that a full-back scores unless it is from a free kick or a penalty, but WILSON earned that distinction with a great first time drive from about 40 yards which deceived Shortt completely.

Before writing off the effort as lucky, we must consider that on previous occasions this season he has given opposing goalkeepers surprisingly warm handfuls from long range, but this, of course, was a shot in a thousand, though Shortt should have saved, for he had plenty of time to watch the ball.

However, whether it was lucky or not, it was a noble effort which stunned the crowd to silence, and enabled the Town to reach the interval a goal ahead, thanks to a great save by Streten from Astall.

Had Arnison accepted an easy chance a few minutes after the start of the second half, the Town would probably have picked up both points, but he merely succeeded in side-footing a perfect Brennan pass straight to Shortt.

There was excuse for the centre-forward in that he had just been injured and was probably still suffering from the effects of the

EQUALISER FROM A CORNER

Still, a goal then would have been invaluable to the Town, and instead of leading 2—0, they suddenly found the scores levelled, seven minutes after the resumption.

Scorer was BOYD, who breasted the ball through following a corner from Strauss.

That set the stage for an even grimmer struggle, with Argyle throwing everything into their efforts to snatch the lead. They had long periods of pressure and yet, curiously enough, seldom gave real promise of scoring again.

The most dangerous happenings were the many corners which they forced. These were invariably well-placed by Astall and Strauss, and caused several scrimmages in the Town goalmouth.

When the Town forwards did manage to get on the move, they looked a lot more effective than did the Argyle, and although the formation was upset when Arnison was injured again and had to spend the last 10 minutes on the right wing, they might easily have gained the decider.

Brennan, who had moved into the middle, pulled down a high ball in brilliant style, and flashed in a shot which missed the post by inches. This was in the dying minutes, but a goal to the Town then would not have been just to the hard-working Plymouth side, who, however, were always inclined to be prodigal with their chances.

TEAM SPIRIT A BIG FACTOR

This was not the sort of game in which anybody stood out by reason of clever play. Rather was it a triumph for the Town's fighting spirit and teamwork.

Everybody put in everything he knew in that second half struggle to keep on level terms, and this spirit is something which several clubs would give anything to attain.

The forwards rarely moved in the rhythmic fashion which we have come to look for and, to a large extent, Argyle managed to shut Arnison out of the game.

Kiernan, too, was kept tolerably quiet though there were flashes of his genius and he produced two or three of those unexpected shots which are invariably close to the target.

Most successful of the line was Brennan, who did much fetching and carrying and was always fighting for possession. The way he went back to collect clearances from Streten proved disconcerting to Jones with whom he had some rare tussles.

Watkins was chasing and working without really managing to make a mark for himself in this game, and Waugh, like Brennan, had to do much running back to gain possession.

The defence put up a game battle in which Streten, Cooke and Hall gained chief honours. Streten received an ovation from the crowd at the end, and he got the Town out of difficulties time and again.

Argyle tried to force a way down the middle which meant hard work for Hall, while Cooke again came out on top from his struggles with Astall.

Wilson, too, had a large measure of success against Strauss, and Morton and Gardiner, though again not so accurate as purveyors of passes as they might have been, did tremendous work in defence.

A tricky wind had much to do with some of the inaccurate football which was played and probably accounted largely for many of the scrappy passages.

PLYMOUTH A.—Shortt; Silk, Jones; Boyd, Goddard, Machin; Astall, Dews, Tadman, Edds, Strauss.

LUTON T.—Streten; Wilson, Cooke; Morton, Hall, Gardiner; Brennan, Kiernan, Arnison, Watkins, Waugh.