

Similar Weather— Different Result

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN	0
LEEDS UNITED	0

The Town began the New Year as they began the season—with a goalless draw, and this was the first time they had failed to score at Kenilworth-road since August 21.

Leeds seem to bring bad weather with them for the atrocious conditions were similar to those which obtained when they were here 12 months ago.

On that occasion, the result was vastly different, for the Town ran riot to the tune of their biggest win in the Second Division.

There could be little complaint by the Town on the score of lack of opportunity, for they had sufficient of the play in the second half to have had matters well in hand.

Then, they were operating on good going as compared with the quagmire at the Oak-road end, but it was heavy enough even then, and the Town forwards failed to make use of the open spaces.

Far too often, they were bunched together in the goal-mouth trying to force a way through what seemed to be a solid barrier of Leeds' defenders.

More attempts to open out the play might have reaped a good reward, but they tried to play their normal, clever, close-passing game, and it just did not succeed in the conditions and against the hard, quick tackling of the visitors.

There should have been goals for each side had their chances. Those to Leeds fell mostly before the interval when they had quite a fair share of the play, and their forwards showed a readiness to shoot which the Town might have copied to advantage.

The second half saw the Town mostly in command and battering away at the Leeds goal for long intervals without being able to beat Fearnley. Considering the amount of pressure they exerted, extraordinarily few shots were produced.

NARROW ESCAPES NEAR THE END

One 30 yard effort from Watkins deserved a better fate than to miss the post by inches, and in a last great effort when the pitch was enshrouded in near darkness, the Leeds goal had several narrow escapes. Narrowest came when Kiernan shot just the wrong side of the post.

Without doubt, the Town did sufficient to win, but to claim territorial advantage without producing the goals does not bring victories.

A few second-half breakaway by the United brought some real threats to the Town, and Browning had one excellent chance spoilt by the quick intervention of Stretten.

Despite a pronounced limp due to a first half injury, Stretten brought off a great save, but he was severely handicapped, and it was just as well that he was not hard pressed after the interval.

The defence, keeping a clean sheet, was reliable enough, and Hall played a big part in breaking up Leeds's attacks when they threatened to get on top. He was faced with quite a handful in the youthful Browning, but was very sure-footed on the muddy turf.

Cooke showed a continuance of his good form, though Cochrane's somewhat unorthodox play caused him trouble in the first half. His partner, Wilson, was steady, too, while Gardiner seemed to relish the heavy going as much as anybody, and gave a non-stop performance.

Morton was best in defence, where his strong tackling was an asset, but his constructive work is still below par, and he did not use the ball well.

Badly missed in the front line was the weight and dash of Arnison, though Duggan played a very useful game without bringing the punch which was necessary.

The right was the better wing, with Brennan as consistent as anyone in attack and making far more accurate centres than did Waugh, whose finishing was none too good.

For clever ball players such as Kiernan and Watkins, the mud was a handicap, though the former contrived to provide some neat footwork, and with any luck at all might have been the match-winner, for he was always the most dangerous marksman. Watkins had a quiet game and ran into trouble too often by holding on to the ball over-long.

LUTON TOWN: Stretten; Wilson, Cooke; Morton, Hall, Gardiner; Brennan, Kiernan, Duggan, Watkins, Waugh.

LEEDS UNITED: Fearnley; Dunn, Milburn; Bullions, Depear, McAdam; Cochrane, Iggleden, Browning, Marsh, Heaton.

Referee: R. J. Leafe, Nottingham.

Attendance: 15,310.