

Home Points Lost In Disappointing Match

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 0
WEST HAM 1

This was the sort of game to give weight to the arguments of those who say that the football season lasts too long, for the football produced was typical of the end of the season, and that is not due for another five weeks.

Secret of it all, probably, was that the hard ground and the light, awkwardly-bouncing ball, defeated all the efforts of both teams to play their normal game.

Passes went astray with monotonous regularity, the ball was much in the air, and more often than not, shots were well off the target—all mistakes which, in some part, at least, could be put down to the trickiness of the lively ball.

Yet, even taking that into consideration, the play should have been better than it was, for while there were good spells in the first half, it deteriorated to a very low ebb long before the second half was through.

The Hammers have often been something of a bogey team at Kenilworth-road, and, fairly consistently in the past, they have picked up League points here.

Even on the way play went

in this match, they should not have been allowed to go away with the spoils, for the Town had an abundance of scoring chances which were allowed to slip away time and again.

One of the best efforts came early on, when Small cracked the ball against the bar. A goal then might have had a steadying effect on the Town and restored their confidence, which seemed to grow less and less as the game wore on.

ROBINSON SCORED THE ONLY GOAL

The Hammers' goal came rather unexpectedly after 23 minutes, when ROBINSON met a centre from Woodgate with his head, and sent the ball high into the net.

After that, there was never much threat from the Hammers, and all through the second half they seldom looked likely to add to their lead. The Town had much more of the play after the interval, but although an injury to Forde caused a rearrangement of the Hammers' defence, they could not score.

The nearest they came to doing so was when a header from Owen went into the net, but the referee promptly awarded the Hammers a free kick because Taylor had been obstructed.

What honours there were in this disappointing match went to the defences, which is usually the way when conditions are as they were on Saturday.

Hall was the Town's outstanding figure with Owen covering a tremendous amount of ground in his efforts to force home attacks, and probably as frequent a marksman as any of the forwards.

Cooke made certain that Woodgate did not reveal too many of his tricks, and Mulvaney's robust tackling was usually too much for Bainbridge, who was kept reasonably quiet. Watkins was rather below the high standard he has set in recent games, though he, too, was quite forceful in attack at times.

Streten was not so busy as was Taylor, and had a comparatively easy afternoon.

Apart from spasms mostly in the first half, the Town forward line failed to function as a line, and Arnison was blotted out by Walker. Nothing seemed to go right for him, hard though he tried.

Brennan, too, did not have a very successful match, and with Kiernan revealing his best form only in snatches, the usual mid-field combination went to pieces.

Waugh was the more dangerous and more consistent winger, and he put in some grand work in the first half, but Small was mostly subdued.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Mulvaney, Cooke; Watkins, Hall, Owen; Small, Kiernan, Arnison, Brennan, Waugh.

WEST HAM: Taylor; Devlin, Forde; Corbett, Walker, Cater; Woodgate, Parsons, Robinson, McGowan, Bainbridge.

Referee: R. E. Tarratt, Horsham.