

Town's First Win Of The Season A Deserved One

Luton Town - - 2 Coventry City - 0

By Chiltern

The Town hit the winning trail in clear-cut style at Kenilworth-road last night when they took both points from their traditional rivals, Coventry City. In a hotly contested encounter they were the better side throughout.

The forwards functioned in quite lively style but the problems here are not completely solved yet. The defence was compact and Streten kept goal excellently.

Teams:

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen Gardiner; Small, Shanks, Arnison, Taylor, Waugh.

COVENTRY CITY: Wood; Timmins Mason (R.); Snape, Mason (G.), Simpson; Warner, Marsh, Roberts, Cook, Murphy.

Referee: E. V. Crook Abingdon.

The Town made a lively start, with the forwards bombarding the City goal, and Taylor quickly had the ball into the net but the goal was disallowed because Arnison, who had crossed the ball, had taken it over the dead ball line.

Shortly afterwards the Town took the lead through WATKINS who scored direct from a free kick. The kick was awarded near the touch line some 35 yards from goal and looked harmless enough as it came over, but George Mason crossed Wood and obviously unsighted the goalkeeper, and the ball bounced out of his reach into the far corner of the net.

LIVELY FORWARDS

For some time the Town forwards, playing lively football and moving the ball about quickly, kept the City defence at full stretch and Taylor twice went close with snap shots.

City improved and in one spell the Town goal escaped when Gardiner headed off the goal line following a corner. Then Marsh crashed the ball against the post with an oblique shot.

The rebound went to Murphy whose return was smothered by Owen and the referee disallowed urgent appeals by the City players for a penalty.

There continued to be plenty of incident and the Town gained the upper hand again in a series of raids in which Wood was thoroughly tested by Arnison and Shanks.

SOLID FRONT

The City looked quite dangerous in their quick raids but they found the Town defence presenting a solid front and few shots reached Streten.

Generally, the Town were calling the tune and they made ground again through the perseverance of Arnison who, after chasing the ball down the wing, dropped it plumb in the goalmouth.

It eventually went to Small, who missed a chance when, meeting it first time, he sliced it wide.

MORE PUNCH WANTED

Play was rather more keen towards the interval but the Town took the honours in the first half and might have had a wider lead had there been a little more punch in their finishing and a little more steadiness in front of goal.

As it was, the forwards presented quite a problem to the City defence, in which George Mason was again a dominating figure. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 1

COVENTRY CITY 0

The Town continued to be the

of the second half, and Arnison was twice tackled as he was boring his way through to reach shooting positions.

Best shot of the match so far came from Taylor, who made a great high drive from 25 yards, which Wood touched over in spectacular style.

The City defence was kept at full stretch and was in trouble again when Small dropped in a perfect centre which Waugh headed goalwards but not with sufficient power to cause real trouble.

WITH GREAT EASE

When the City defence rallied, a weak clearance by Aherne let in Warner, but Streten plucked his shot out of the air with great ease.

Keeping it up for a few minutes, the City went near to equalising when Cook flashed in a tremendous shot that just missed the far post.

Then Small nearly took advantage of a slip by the City defence and was just beaten to the ball by Wood, who injured an ankle in the process and had to receive attention.

He quickly recovered and was soon in action again in saving from Small, whose turn of speed had enabled him to pass Mason (R.).

With the Town needing another goal to clinch their first win of the season, they crowded on considerable pressure, and brilliant play by Taylor sent Waugh through.

ON WRONG FOOT

He caught the defence on the wrong foot, but his shot was half blocked, and Wood was able to save at the foot of the post.

Shortly afterwards Waugh missed a chance when Shanks sent him away, and he again aimed for the near post, but this time was a yard wide.

Although, in the main, the Town defence was solid enough, the City did threaten an equaliser once or twice, and Streten twice had to come out in a hurry when Roberts was through.

Another Luton chance went astray when Arnison shot straight at Wood after Taylor had made a grand opening but ARNISON made amends 15 minutes from the end when he scored a great goal with a shot well out of Wood's reach following more magnificent work by Taylor, who was playing brilliantly.

Shanks, who had not had the happiest of matches, missed a very good chance of adding to the Town's lead and then Streten brought down the house with a near-miraculous save from Murphy's point-blank drive.

George Mason came up for the corner and headed inches wide.

At the other end, we had the spectacle of Wood swinging on the cross-bar, when a deflection by a defender threatened to add to his team's arrears.

In the closing stages, only a brilliant full-length save by Wood prevented Arnison from adding to the lead.