

Unbeaten Record Was Broken At Coventry

By Chiltern

If proof of the uncertainty of football were needed, it was amply supplied by the Town's experiences during their busy week-end, when they played two away games in three days.

They gave a more satisfying Monday than they did at their first defeat of the season, left Bramall-lane with

COVENTRY CITY		1
LUTON TOWN		0

Against the City they looked likely to gain reward once they got over the initial settling-in period, during which Coventry were obviously out for an early goal in order to set themselves on the way to ending their barren patch.

When the Town came through this spell without mishap, and began to play ordered football, things looked bright for them, indeed.

No score was the state of affairs at the interval, with the Town deservedly on level terms and giving every indication of staying there.

The early part of the second half saw the Town really taking a grip of the game, and during this time they had chances to take the lead.

That they were not accepted was the Town's biggest failing in this match, for had they scored first, then it is fairly certain that they would have held their lead until the end.

It was the sort of game in which the side to score first gains an inestimable advantage, but with the minutes flying, it seemed improbable that there would be any goals.

There were but eight left for play when the City, who had been making several heavy attacks which were being coped with adequately, shot into top gear with a brilliant first-time passing movement.

Simpson collected a ball and suddenly switched the ball across the field. So quick and accurate was the pass that the Town defence was taken right off its guard.

STRETEN NEARLY SAVED

Another quick pass by Dearson to ROBERTS completed the disorder, and the centre-forward placed the ball into the net as Streten tried to tackle him. It was a close thing, for Streten got near enough to Roberts for the ball to touch him on the foot as it left Roberts's boot.

That was the end of the Town's hopes, though there was very nearly a sensational last-minute equaliser when Wood shot out a foot to divert the ball from Arnison, who was in full cry after it.

Once again, the defence impressed as a very efficient department, with Owen an outstanding figure for his deadly tackling, brilliant head-work and coolness under pressure.

He has to be singled out for praise, but the others did their share, for Cooke and Aherne were two grand full-backs, Steten again pulled off some magnificent saves, and Watkins and Gardiner were indefatigable in their work at wing-half.

The forwards, after taking time to find their form, looked good until it came to the point of rounding off their efforts, and this they found it impossible to do.

The attack was excellently led by Arnison who again put in a tremendous amount of work. Shanks often caught the eye for the way in which he distributed the ball, and was perhaps more consistent than was Taylor, who, after a quiet first half, had some patches of pure sparkle afterwards.

There were times when Small looked very good and others when he was not quite so good, but when the ball was in front of him, he was a difficult proposition for the City defence.

Burtenshaw, too, was fitful, but he did cross some beautiful low centres which might well have been the means of the Town winning this match.

Which brings us back to the burning question of the ability to round off good approach work with goals.

COVENTRY CITY: Wood; Timmins, Bell; Snape, Mason (G.), Simpson; Warner, Dearson, Roberts, Murphy, Lockhart.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cook Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Gardiner; Small, Shanks, Arnison, Taylor, Burtenshaw (C.).