

The Boot Was On The Other Foot This Time

By Chiltern

Luton Town 1, Leeds United 0

It would not be surprising if the Town felt some passing sympathy for the United in losing the points so late in the game, since that has been their own portion on two occasions this season.

This time they were on the right side, thanks to a goal from Taylor scored 10 minutes from the end, and which gave them their first win for over five weeks.

TAYLOR redeemed what had been otherwise a rather poor day for him by collecting a pass from Watkins and ramming it past the helpless Searson from quite close in.

That was the end of the United's hopes, for they were handicapped by the absence of Milburn, who was carried off midway through the second half with severe concussion, and it took them all their time to stave off further disaster during the closing minutes.

During that time it seemed as if the Town, having scented blood, really meant business.

Earlier, their finishing had been much on a par with recent earlier efforts, and several good chances went astray through inaccurate and, perhaps, hurried finishing.

Both sides had their narrow escapes in a game that was fiercely contested and in which the desperation of both teams in their need for points led to some scrappiness.

Hall did the Town a great service in the first half when he kicked away a shot from Rudd that was booked for the back of the net and which had already beaten Streten, and Milburn also made a goal-line clearance from a header by Taylor.

BOTH FINISHED BADLY

Otherwise, though there were several close calls, the standard of finishing shown by both teams was not good. Both, too, found difficulty with the lively ball, which ran fast on the hard-baked ground.

The Town defence lived up to the reputation they have earned for themselves, and there could have been few complaints at the form shown by the members of it.

Streten, who completed his century of League appearances in this match, was completely confident and capable, and was covered by two first-rate full-backs in Cooke and Aberne.

The middle line was strong, with Watkins the best, and most constructive, wing-half on the field, and he really touched top form in the second half.

Despite a couple of errors of judgment, Hall satisfied everybody on his first home appearance in the League side this season, and Gardiner contributed his usual hard-working display, though he did not rival Watkins in his distribution of the ball.

As for the forwards, they did not function smoothly as a line, and although there were spells in which they produced good football, the lack of finish was still patent to everybody.

Glover and Shanks, who interchanged effectively, made quite a smart right wing, but with Taylor never quite coming off and Waugh well held, the left wing was not consistently dangerous.

Mulvaney was a great trier, but was always facing a difficult task, for apart from the fact that the ball was seldom coming to him in an open space, he found Charles a great obstacle.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Aberne; Watkins, Hall, Gardiner; Glover, Shanks, Mulvaney, Taylor, Waugh.

LEEDS UNITED: Searson; Dunn, Milburn; McCabe, Charles, Burden; Williams, McMorran, Dudley, Wilkins, Rudd.