

Poor Town Display Cost Precious Point

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN ... 1 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 1

To play football that would not have been out of place in the First Division one week, and then produce something which was not much above Third Division stuff the next. Such is the inconsistency of the Town this season.

One thing in which they are consistent, though, is in their continuing failure in front of goal, a weakness which cost them a point they could not afford to drop at Kenilworth-road last Saturday.

Had Plymouth been a little more fortunate with two or three first-rate shots in the second half, there might not have been even a consolation point for the Town.

Part of the Town's trouble in this match was that they tried to play too much close football on a pitch which was all against this type of game.

Even then, had they passed with the accuracy and moved into position and into the open spaces as they did at Sheffield, they might well have got away with it.

In a particularly dreary first half in which there was little to raise a cheer from the crowd, the Town could have built themselves a winning lead had they possessed a sharp-shooting forward.

Chances were missed, and it was not until six minutes from half-time that WAUGH jumped high to nod into the net a perfect centre from Shanks, who had received the ball from Glover.

There was a little more incident and more speed about the play in the second half, but Plymouth revealed themselves as an improved side who had learnt the lesson of the sticky pitch.

STRAUSS UNLUCKY

They moved the ball about merrily, and Strauss could consider himself the unluckiest player on the field that he did not score with a cracking drive that cannoned off the inside of the post to Streten.

No more than their due was their equaliser after 68 minutes when PORTEOUS put in a hard, high drive which Streten pulled down, but could not prevent crossing the line — so the very capable referee promptly decided.

Although the defence has often played better this season, they did their job efficiently enough to have been on the winning side had the forwards been able to get among the goals.

Waugh was the best of the line, and the only other member to touch normal form was Shanks, who showed good ideas about opening up the play.

Little was seen of Glover, who had a poor game, and it was surprising to see Watkins, so good at Sheffield, giving such an indifferent exhibition. Stobbart was in Dixon's grip almost from the start and was never able to make much headway.

Gardiner was more effective

than Morton and turned in a very good display, especially in defence, while Owen, despite some mistakes in the second half, was adequate, and usually held the upper hand in his tussles with Edds.

Despite the liveliness and thrustfulness of Williams, Cooke was as reliable a defender as the Town possessed, and was ahead of Aherne, whose tackling was not too effective.

There could have been no complaint about Streten's work, for he pulled off some daring saves, and showed his usual good anticipation.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Gardiner; Glover, Shanks, Stobbart, Watkins, Waugh.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: Shortt; Silk, Jones; Porteous, Dixon, Taylor; Strauss, Dougall, Edds, Dews, Williams.

Referee: B. M. Griffiths, Newport.

Attendance: 13,273.