

One Goal Meant Two Points For The Town

By Chiltern

CHESTERFIELD 0,

LUTON TOWN 1

Good football, allied with fighting spirit and determination to hold their narrow lead, enabled the Town to open their winning account away from home at Saltergate on Saturday.

It was their tenth match on an opponent's ground, and it proved as grim a struggle as they have been involved in this season.

Chesterfield, who have been suffering from the same trouble as the Town—lack of punch near goal—found no relief to their dismal record of recent blanks, for the Town defence was in masterful mood.

Yet Chesterfield had only themselves to blame for this home defeat; for they had their chances in the first half, when, with the wind behind them, they held the balance of play.

Their dalliance in the penalty area proved fatal against a quick tackling defence, and such shots as reached goal were adequately dealt with by Streten.

EARLY CLOSE CALL

There had nearly been a sensational start to the match, for the very first time Kiernan touched the ball he sent it against the post.

A goal then would have set Chesterfield struggling, but they were considerably jolted when the Town broke away to take the lead a minute from half-time.

STOBART was the opportunist, and he crowned a smart move in which Gardiner and Shanks took part by pushing the latter's pass into the net as Middleton threw himself desperately at the ball.

It was as if this goal gave the town confidence, for they came out in the second half to play more concise, go-ahead football which often had the Chesterfield defence hard pressed.

Goals did not come, though, and, towards the end, with the crowd of under 8,000 roaring their heads off, Chesterfield threw everything into attack, and even Booker once came through with the ball and had a crack at goal.

There were some exciting moments in the closing stages, but apart from a couple of useful chances which the home team failed to accept, there seldom seemed real danger that the Town's lead would be whittled away.

ALL FOUGHT HARD

Every Town player fought tremendously hard, and, in the end, they were deserving winners of a game which produced remarkably good football considering the waterlogged state of the ground.

Kiernan made a successful return by giving a display which bodes well for the future, and Stobbart led the line skilfully.

Shanks and Waugh formed quite an adequate wing, and Glover, who was inclined to hold the ball too long in the first half, was more direct afterwards, and his effectiveness was greater as a result.

Much of the Town's strength lay in their half-back line, of which all three members played splendidly. Owen was one of the most outstanding men on the field but Watkins and Gardiner were little behind his high standard.

Once again Cooke, despite the cleverness of Dale, was the more effective back, for Aherne never quite got a grip on Moore, another lively winger.

Streten gave a polished display, and, with Middleton in form, too, the spectators were treated to some superb goalkeeping.

CHESTERFIELD: Middleton; Milburn, Capel; Southall, Booker, Halton; Moore Hudson, Marron, Thompson, Dale.

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

Referee: S. E. Law, West Bromwich.