

Watkins Sent Off The Field

The sending from the field of Charlie Watkins, 16 minutes from the end marred Monday's match with Southampton at Kenilworth-road, and put the Town in imminent danger of another home defeat.

Watkins was alleged to have struck Jones, the Saints' outside left, after the referee had awarded a free kick against him for hands almost on the Town's penalty line.

From the stand side, it was impossible to see what had happened, and the fans there were amazed when Watkins was seen to be walking from the field to the accompaniment of sympathetic cheers.

Thus brought down to 10 men, and with Glover, limping badly on the left wing, the Town had to struggle hard to remain on level terms.

That they did so was due to the gallantry of the defence, joined by Kiernan, who dropped back to right half, and the agility of Streten, who made some great saves.

Had they been beaten, there would have been a grave miscarriage of justice, for the Town gave a brilliant display in the first half-hour, and that Southampton held the lead until the 31st minute was a complete travesty.

Their goal came after 12 minutes during only the second Saints' attack to carry any threat at all. That fine opportunist, WAYMAN, was the marksman with a terrific shot after former Town player, Scott, had laid on the opening for him.

The Town might well have been in the lead before this, for they began like a house on fire. They moved the ball with precision, and the right-wing pair, Glover and Kiernan, simply carved a way through the Saints' left flank.

Even the setback made no difference to the Town, who went on playing football right from the copy-book, but the ball just would not go into the net.

Watkins hit the bar, Shanks scraped the post, and Wilkins dived full length to head wide a shot from Kiernan that had beaten Black.

Time and again, crosses from Glover and Waugh were sent to

safety by a defender
foot, and then came drama when
Glover was pulled down in the
penalty area by Wheatley.

Stobbart took the kick, and, to
the accompaniment of groans
from the crowd, drove the ball
over the bar. These turned to
cheers when it was seen that the
referee had ordered the kick to
be retaken because Black had
moved before Stobbart made his
shot.

Protests from Southampton
failed to alter the verdict, and
COOKE came up to have a try
this time, and made no mistake
with a low shot to Black's right.

Southampton's raids in the first
half were mainly limited to
breakaway, dangerous enough,
especially when Wayman and Day
were in possession, but all the
consistent pressure came from the
Town, who apart from a certain
amount of bad luck in their
finishing, still showed lack of
power in the penalty area.

TOWN FELL AWAY

The second half was a grimmer
affair in which play became
robust, and many free kicks were
awarded for fouls. The Town did
not maintain the high standard
they had set before the interval,
though some of this was due to
the fact that Glover was injured,
and eventually he switched with
Waugh.

Much of the forward play of
both teams was brought to a
premature end by the stern
tackling of the defenders, and the
result was much battling in mid-
field. The heavy going did not
help, either.

Southampton never threatened
to win the game until Watkins's
unfortunate retirement, and there
were one or two narrow
escapes at the Town end.

Glover, until his injury, was
again a bright star in the Luton
firmament, with Kiernan, look-
ing as if he had all the time in
the world to make his move

the prompting and producing some brilliantly-made passes.

Stobbart was mostly in the grip of Webber, a strong centre-half, and Shanks, after a good first half in which he did quite a lot of shooting was not so prominent in the second.

More often than not, Waugh has a day out against Southampton, and he produced all his tricks in this match to the discomfiture of Wilkins. Perhaps both he and Glover were a little over-elaborate at times, but certainly more use should have been made of the material they provided.

No one could have criticised the quality of some of the mid-field football, but no amount of pattern-weaving can compensate for the lack of the all-important goals.

However, in the first half, the forwards, ably backed up by Watkins and Gardiner, served up football of high-class.

In addition, Cooke, Owen, Aherne, and even Streten at times were finding colleagues with the ball to start an attack, all of which, alas, failed to produce the goals.

Owen kept a close watch on the tricky Wayman, who was always dangerous when the ball was on the ground, but who never had a chance when it was airborne.

Cooke mostly smothered Jones out of the game, and Day, after an early demonstration of his speed, was kept in subjection by Aherne, whose kicking was excellent.

Streten played with complete confidence, and made some grand