

One Team Spurs Were Not Able To Beat

By Chiltern

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0 LUTON TOWN 0

If Tottenham beat Hull City in one of the two meetings between the teams at Easter, then the Town will hold the distinction of being the only team in the Second Division not to have lost to the potential champions. They have overcome all the others at least once.

By holding the Spurs for the second time this season at White Hart-lane last Saturday, the Town gave a grand, hard-fighting, spirited display, and were well worth the reward of a point that will be of great value to them.

A draw was perhaps just about the fairest result that could have been obtained, but, for all that, there were grounds for feeling that the Town could have collared both points.

Indeed, there were good chances of doing so, but it was the sort of match in which both forward lines missed scoring opportunities, and the light, awkwardly bouncing ball often made accurate shooting difficult.

That the Tottenham forwards only showed fleeting glimpses of the streamlined work that has netted them 70 goals this season was due in large measure to the brilliant work of the Town defence.

Every member of it marked his opposite number closely and they went in to meet the ball, which

was what the conditions demanded.

The covering was very good, too, with the result that much clever work by the Spurs' forwards came to nought, though they contributed partly to their own downfall by making a lot of inaccurate final passes.

SEVERAL NARROW ESCAPES

There were times in the first half when Spurs were really dangerous, but the Town defenders usually cleared before the danger really materialised, though there was one shot from Duquemin that sent the ball crashing against a post.

Hesitancy cost them a couple of other chances, and at the other end, Wyldes failed twice, Jinks hit the side net from close in and Kiernan produced the shot of the match, a screaming drive that missed the post by mere inches.

Throughout the second half, the Town gave the impression of having matters well under control, and there seldom seemed much fear that they would be denied one point.

In fact, they went close to taking the lead several times, particularly when Stobbart seemed to have produced a scoring shot, but a magnificent full-length save by Ditchburn denied him this success.

There were worried faces among the thousands of Luton fans when Shanks was carried off the field eight minutes from the end.

Stobbart dropped back to left-half, but Shanks, who had been attacked by cramp, was soon back again, and afterwards there was never much prospect of the Spurs scoring.

which, to a certain extent, meant the sacrifice of clever football.

One thing that did please the Town fans though was that the attack looked progressive in its ideas, and might easily have scored two or three goals.

KIERNAN'S GOOD MATCH

Best of the line was Kiernan, who was the link between the forwards and the middle line, and whose ability to control the ball on the lively ground, and hold it, was a most valuable asset.

Spurs always had to keep a wary eye on Stobbart, who constantly threatened to find a loophole in defence, and he gave a most satisfactory display in the position which has given the Town so much concern this season.

Jinks was too closely marked by Clarke to repeat the success of his debut and was not often a potential goal-scorer, while Wyldes found in Ramsey a capable and very confident opponent who cut down his effectiveness, though he never gave up trying.

Some brilliant spells in which he clearly had the beating of Withers were produced by Glover, who, although he did not always make the best use of the ball, was ever a danger.

The defence did everything that was asked of it, and the introduction of Watkins and Shanks into the middle line proved to be a happy move.

Both were strong in the tackle, and Shanks gave little sign that this was a position comparatively strange to him.

Owen gave another outstanding display, which meant that Duquemin had little scope, and both full-backs made an excellent job of cutting out the tricky wingers to whom they were opposed.

Cooke was effective from the start in keeping a hold on Medley, but Aherne took time to settle down, and after a shaky start improved to give a first-class, polished display.

As for Hughes, he certainly did not suffer by comparison with Ditchburn, and apart from some very smart saves from direct shots, he impressed by the way in which he cut out dangerous centres and by his safe handling.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR. — Ditchburn; Ramsey, Withers; Nicholson, Clarke, Burgess; Walters, Rees, Duquemin, Baily, Medley.

LUTON TOWN. — Hughes; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Shanks; Glover, Kiernan, Jinks, Stobbart, Wyldes.

Referee.—R. E. Tarratt, Horsham.