

Quick Blows Turned Tide

WEST HAM UNITED .. 2
LUTON TOWN 1

Things were going very well for the Town at Upton Park until the 42nd minute and then the game which had been running in Luton's favour, took a dramatic turn.

Cause of this was a spectacular 35-yards' drive by WOODGATE which found a billet just under the bar, but which should have been saved by Hughes.

That was followed, a minute later, by a first-time drive by the other winger, BETTS, also from longish range, and when the half-time whistle went, the Hammers went off with a completely unexpected lead of two goals.

More than unexpected, it was fantastic, for the Town had played copy-book football all through the half and justice would have been done had the Town held a formidable lead at that juncture.

That there is nothing wrong with the spirit of the Town team was shown by the way in which they fought back in the second half and they were rewarded after 15 minutes.

GLOVER, in the inside-left berth temporarily while Watkins was recovering from injury, beat Gregory with a low drive from outside the penalty area. The ball was deflected slightly when it flicked the head of Wyldes, who was lying prone on the ground.

It was a ding-dong struggle after that, but the Town missed a wonderful chance of getting on level terms when Cooke's shot from the penalty spot was well saved by Gregory after Walker had handled in the area eight minutes from the end.

Best of the Town forwards was Glover, who gave Yeomanson an unhappy time, especially in the first half. Taylor and Watkins gave

him good support and the line was led energetically by Stobbart. Whent had a moderate match and Wyldes blotted his copybook by missing two good chances.

Much of the Town defensive strength was in the middle line, where Shanks had another grand match and Owen held the persevering Robinson Cooke's task was lighter than that faced by Aherne against Woodgate.

WEST HAM: Gregory; Devlin, Yeomanson; Parker, Walker, Moroney; Woodgate, Gazzard Robinson, Foan, Betts.

LUTON TOWN: Hughes; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Shanks; Glover, Taylor (J), Stobbart, Whent, Wyldes.

Referee: A. W. Smith, Aldershot.