

Town Frittered Away Chances And Points

(By CHILTERN)

LUTON TOWN 0 SOUTHAMPTON ... 1

The Town's unbeaten home record has not been of long standing this season, but last Saturday's occasion of the visit of Southampton to Kenilworth-road certainly should not have caused them to lose it. That they did so was entirely due to the failings of the forwards in front of goal, where their shooting was of an unbelievably inept quality.

They had sufficient chances in the first half to have assured themselves of victory, the most glaring miss being one by Stobbart when he was left with only Kelly to beat after Glover had made the opening. Kelly saved and, eventually, after a scramble, Southampton were awarded a free kick on the goal line.

In the second half, there were long spells of pressure by the Town, and Stobbart was again remiss in the opening minutes when he drove the ball over the bar from only six yards range.

Not that the failing was confined to one forward, for the others had their chances.

One of the best efforts came from Wyldes, whose shot sent the ball rolling along the bar.

Glover, too, was unlucky with a hard first-time drive, but apart from this, the finishing was distinguished only by its inaccuracy.

All through the match, though, it seemed that a draw was the worst result the Town could expect, but then the unexpected happened when, five minutes from the end, Southampton scored.

BATES HEADED THROUGH

Ellerington placed a free kick into the Town penalty area, and BATES jumped to head the ball out of Hughes's reach into the net to give Southampton a most fortunate victory.

Not that the Town could quibble, for they had no one to blame but themselves. Not only was the shooting bad, but there were times when some of the forwards showed a marked reluctance to shoot when the opportunity occurred.

The inside forward trio was disappointing, for both Taylor and Whent seemed to be working hard and yet accomplishing little, and when Stobbart did get out of Webber's grip, he could not provide the finish.

They could not complain that the service was not forthcoming from the wingers, for both Glover and Wyldes provided some good material, and the latter shaped very well against the English International, Ellerington.

In defence, there was nothing seriously wrong. Owen had a streaky patch at the start, but kept a close watch on Jones throughout, while Watkins and

Shanks were strong in the tackle, though their distribution of the ball was not up to standard.

Early on, the way in which Day gave Aherne the slip on two occasions caused some mis-giving, but there was no need for anxiety, for the Irishman kept the winger quiet afterwards, and Cooke gave Mitchell little scope on his first League appearance.

A brilliant one-handed save from Edwards, Southampton's only sharpshooter, was the memorable part of Hughes's display, in which he did everything required of him, though his kicking of the ball could have been much improved.

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

SOUTHAMPTON: Kelly; Ellerington, Ballard; Curtis, Webber, Mallett; Day, Bates, Jones, Edwards, Mitchell.

Referee: L. A. M. Mackey, Fulham. Attendance: 16,942.