

No Goals, But There Should Have Been

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 0 SHEFFIELD UTD. 0

A goalless draw was by no means an unfamiliar result to the Town last season, but there should have been goals in this match and the Town should have obtained them.

Not that there were such palpable missed chances as happened in some previous matches. Rather was it the case that bad luck, combined with brilliant goalkeeping, prevented them from hitting the target.

Few of the 14,768 spectators will wish to see a better save than that which Burgin achieved in the first half to keep out a shot from Taylor that looked a certain scorer.

On other occasions, the goal-keeper was there when goals seemed inevitable, but he could do nothing about a cross shot by Kiernan that came back into play off the post.

The only time the ball went into the net was when Taylor rammed it there from the edge of the penalty area, but the cheers quickly turned to groans when it was seen that the referee had awarded the United a free kick.

In the first half, the Town played some good, combined football without being able to reap the reward and although they were not quite so effective after the interval, the story was much the same.

Due allowance must be made for the handicap United laboured under in that Underwood, their centre-half, who suffered concussion early on and was off the field for two spells, spent most of the match on the wing.

RE-GROUPING OF DEFENCE

This caused a re-grouping of the United's force which entailed the moving of Shaw to centre-half and Hagan to left half. They put up a gallant fight, but were fortunate to escape with a point.

Not that the Town were without their share of casualties, of which there was a spate in the first half, and Cooke twice had to leave the field for stitches to be inserted in a gaping cut over the eye.

Thompson, too, had to have a head injury attended to, and there were others who hurt their heads in going for the ball which was often in the air.

Cooke gave a remarkably plucky display and was one of the stalwarts of a Town defence that was seldom in trouble. Aherne proved a sound partner for him, and Owen showed much of his old confidence, and took a grip on Smith.

Both wing halves were strong in defence, with Watkins shining the more brightly in attack, and Hughes had by no means a difficult day.

As for the forwards, they did not move so smoothly as was hoped, but Kiernan made a successful return and used the ball well.

Stobbart's showing at outside right was disappointing, and Glover did not really settle down on the opposite wing. He looked much more effective after he switched to his old position in the closing stages.

Jinks, after a promising sort of first half, did not prove to be the spearhead the attack needs, and Taylor was the best marksman, though some of his midfield play was inconsistent.

LUTON TOWN: Hughes; Cooke. Aherne (T.); Watkins. Owen, Shanks; Stobbart, Kiernan, Jinks, Taylor (J.), Glover.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: Burgin; Furniss, Parkin; Hitchen, Underwood, Shaw; Hutchinson. McLaren, Smith, Hagan, Thompson

Referee: G. L. Iliffe, Leicester.