

Town Drew Level In A Fighting Finish

By Chiltern

SOUTHAMPTON 1 LUTON TOWN 1

George Stobbart chose just the right time to open his scoring account for this season from the centre-forward position, and his goal at Southampton, as well as being one of the most spectacular the Town have scored, was absolutely vital.

Coming as it did, three minutes from the end of the match, it rescued for the Town a point which enabled them to complete their fourth match in succession without defeat.

This provided an exciting climax to a match that produced few thrills, and the Town came within inches of snatching what would have been a highly dramatic win, for Davie was only just foiled immediately afterwards, when he looked a likely scorer.

A defender managed to get a foot to the ball and turned it inches wide of the post.

Most of the other goalmouth activity was reserved for the opening and closing stages of the first half. The start was exciting enough for anybody, for the Town found themselves in the unhappy position of having a penalty kick awarded against them five minutes after the start.

There was no disputing the correctness of the decision, for Owen punched the ball over the bar after Edwards had headed it back over Streten's head, following a brilliant save by the goalkeeper.

The Town looked as good as a goal down when Day went up to take the kick, but to everybody's amazement, he shot straight at Streten, who was able to pick up without the slightest difficulty.

With the forwards of both sides finding the combined difficulties of an iron-hard ground and light ball difficult to surmount, goals were never particularly imminent.

Havenga went close on a couple of occasions, and then with seven minutes left before half-time, Ahere had to leave the field because of illness.

Immediately, this was the signal for a mass assault by the Saints, who threw everything into attack in their effort to secure the vital first goal.

It came, with five minutes remaining, when BATES scored from close range with a hard first-time shot. Only a great save by Streten prevented Edwards from increasing the lead.

However, after the interval, with Aherne back, the Town held their own comfortably without threatening to equalise until Glover brought off a master-move.

Just previously, he had switched with Shanks, and now he swept across to the left wing position and then made a superb centre to which STOBART dived full length to head into the net.

PLENTY OF FIGHTING SPIRIT

This point the Town earned because they refused to consider themselves beaten. Fighting spirit goes a long way and the Town showed plenty in this match.

The defence was the more successful department of the team with Owen in full command of the middle of the field, and Wilson and Aherne keeping two dangerous wingers in a close grip.

Behind them, Streten, though the number of shots that reached him was not large, was supremely safe and never gave the slightest hint of making an error of judgment.

Watkins played outstandingly well, while Morton was always strong and resourceful. Yet, both found difficulty in keeping the ball low when feeding their forwards, and Southampton's defenders were faced with a similar problem.

Davie and Havenga formed the more dangerous wing, and Glover, despite the fact that the best of support did not come his way, was often a menace to the home team.

Stobbart had the ball coming to him in the air too often to be completely effective, but he was a hard worker and his goal was a gem.

This was a game which Shanks will not remember with much satisfaction, for little went right for him and he seemed out of touch for long periods.

SOUTHAMPTON: Kelly; Anderson, Ballard; Elliott, Webber, Mallett; Day, Curtis Brown, Bates, Edwards.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Wilson, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Glover, Shanks, Stobbart, Davie, Havenga.

Referee: L. A. M. Mackay, Fulham.