

Might Have Avenged A Heavy Defeat

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1 BARNSELEY 1

With average luck, plus a little more accuracy in their finishing, the Town would have gained ample revenge for their 6—1 defeat at Oakwell earlier in the season.

A similar margin in their favour would not have been an impossible result to this match in which the Town gained the ascendancy in the second half, but failed to drive home their advantage fully.

At the same time, Barnsley could reckon themselves fortunate to go away with a point, for their goal had a number of narrow escapes, and although their rugged, robust defence put up a gallant resistance, no one would have been surprised if they had capitulated several times.

What Luton must discover is a player who can score consistently from the penalty spot. Havenga's failure from a penalty kick after half an hour, cost the Town a vital point in this match, and, not for the first time this season, the result turned on such a missed chance.

Havenga, who was off the mark with his shooting for most of the game, shot wide after Stobbart had been brought down in the area by Normanton.

Had the winger scored, the

Town would have been ahead, for both the other goals came early on, DEAKIN putting Barnsley in front after 10 minutes, and SHANKS equalising seven minutes later.

Deakin scored at the second attempt after his first shot had rebounded, and Shanks beat Kelly from the edge of the penalty area after Alex Glover and Morton had worked the opening.

WERE OFTEN THREATENING

Barnsley's forwards were quite dangerous before the interval, but their raids were confined to breakaway afterwards and, generally, they looked most unlikely to regain their lead.

On the other hand, the Town forwards, moving with more purpose on the better going at the Kenilworth-road end, were often threatening goals.

Stobbart hit the bar, and there were other close calls for Barnsley, but the deciding goal just would not come.

Conditions provided the heaviest going of the season and sapped the stamina of both teams. The Town stuck it well, and apart from their failure to finish, and the fact that they kept the ball too close at times, they put up a good display.

Havenga's off-day was costly, for he had other chances besides the penalty, and the best forward was Stobbart who has rarely led the line with more skill and dash.

GLOVER WORRIED BARNSELEY

Alex Glover, too, was a constant source of worry to Barnsley, and although the thick mud was not helpful to his style, Davie still contrived to shine.

After a poor first half, Shanks improved to make much better use of the ball after the interval.

Without reaching the same heights as they did against Portsmouth, the defence was adequate, with Owen allowing McCormack little scope, and thus subduing the danger man of the visitors' front line.

The mud made the going difficult for the wing halves, and Watkins did not reach his usual standard in his distribution of the ball. Morton played strongly, but was sometimes caught by the cleverness of Baxter.

Aherne was the better full-back, for although Wilson turned in a whole-hearted display, his kicking was weak. Once again Streten was in splendid form, and his use of the ball was excellent.

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

BARNSELEY: Kelly; Lindsay, Pallister; Blanchflower, Glover (Arthur), Normanton; Kaye, McMorran, McCormack, Baxter, Deakin.

Referee: S. E. Law, West Bromwich.

Attendance: 15,032.