

Unconvincing Town Saved A Point

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1 NOTTS COUNTY 1

There have been times this season when the Town have gained full marks for the football they have played, even though the result has gone against them.

In this match at Kenilworth-road on Saturday they earned few marks for anything except a rally near the end that brought them an equaliser and might have enabled them to achieve a victory which they would not have deserved.

In fact, a few more displays of this calibre will turn the spectre of relegation from a threat into a concrete fact. Long ago, we said that the Town could not afford to lose more points at home, but they continue to be dropped and the position becomes more and more serious.

A bustling, quick-moving County team had them worried for long periods during which the Town could not match their opponents' speed, nor the accuracy and crispness with which they mounted their attacks.

Luton took too long to make ground, there was too much backward and square passing and few attempts were made to cut out openings for Moore, who was obviously the man who could have proved the match-winner had he been given the right sort of openings.

MOORE saved the Town a point 15 minutes from the end when he rounded off a good movement by Stobbart and Glover which found him in an open space. His hard cross shot left Smith helplessly placed, and this was the start of an all-out assault on the Notts goal.

Smith saved a point-blank shot from Moore shortly afterwards and Stobbart should have presented the centre-forward with a second goal, but a badly placed pass caused the chance to slip away.

It was during these five minutes that the Town had their best chance of winning this game, but they did not seize it, and the County defence, after faltering badly, settled down again and the closing minutes brought no repeat of that rally.

The County had gone ahead with a goal by CROOKES after 61 minutes, when he closed in from the wing on to a shrewd pass by Sewell and rammed the ball into the far corner of the net.

WEAK ON THE WINGS

In a sluggish Town attack, the main weakness lay on the wings. Havenga scarcely did anything right from start to finish and Glover had a very indifferent game, too.

With Davie mostly only a shadow of the player he can be and Stobbart, often brilliant in approach work, not using the ball well nor finishing forcefully, Moore never received the measure of support he is entitled to expect.

The Crookes-Sewell wing, backed up by a fine attacking wing half in Robinson, exposed a weakness of the Town's left defensive flank where McAuley and Aherne were disappointing. McAuley made good use of the ball at times but was not strong in defence.

There was greater resistance on the opposite side, where Cooke and Morton both earned credit for their solid displays, and so did Owen by the way in which he faced up to the problem of coping with the dashing McPherson.

Also well on the credit side was Streten, who was often left in a sticky position, but his anticipation and sure handling of the ball got the team out of difficulties many times.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Morton, Owen, McAuley; Glover, Stobbart, Moore, Davie, Havenga.

NOTTS COUNTY: Smith; Southwell, Corkhill; Robinson, Leuty, Simpson; Crookes, Sewell, McPherson, Evans (W.), Johnston.

Referee: A. H. Tolley, Worcester. Attendance: 17,398.