

After Early Shocks, Town Hit Their Form

By Chiltern

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 1 LUTON TOWN 1

Not until this match at Loftus-road was half-an-hour old did the Town give any real sign of their ability to achieve such a favourable result.

Uneasy and uncertain in the opening phase, the Town spent most of it struggling to keep on level terms and were fortunate that they were not three goals down before they began to settle down.

The poor shooting of the Rangers' forwards and of Addinall and Duggan in particular, combined with some gallant work by the Town defence was the reason for the Town surviving this extremely awkward period and remaining in the game with a chance.

When the Town did get a grip on things and their forwards had a look in, there was a different story and once they began their improvement, they never looked back.

The last 10 minutes of the first half gave a glimpse of things to come, and a broad hint that the Rangers had contributed to their own failure by their remissness in front of goal.

In a stirring rally, the most memorable happening was a tremendous shot by McAuley that Saphjn dealt with with the utmost difficulty by touching the ball over the bar.

Beginning the second half where they had left off, the Town opened up new problems for a Rangers' defence that did not look so sound as it had during the time when the home side were enjoying their period of supremacy.

DAVIE SCORED

There was a lot of pressure from the Town which brought singularly few shots, but it was not altogether surprising when they took the lead after 65 minutes.

Marksman was DAVIE, who made good use of a chance which cropped up just outside the

penalty area. When the ball ran loose after some deft work by Watkins, Davie hit it first time and it went out of the reach of Saphin, who must have been unsighted by his own players.

A free kick taken with terrific force by Moore represented the Town's best attempt to consolidate, but they did not enjoy the lead long, for Waugh began an attack on the right and sent the ball across the goal.

Shepherd, running in, met it and McAULEY, in an attempt to kick away, had the misfortune to see it spin off his foot into the net for the Rangers' equaliser.

Both teams made attempts for the decider after that, but the finishing of neither forward line was strong enough to break down the respective defences, though there were one or two close calls at each end.

Outstanding in the Town's defence were Streten, Cooke and Owen, and Streten's quickness in leaving his goal probably had much to do with some of the missed chances by the Rangers.

WAUGH WAS DANGEROUS

Aherne, who has been having a sticky patch recently, could not cope wholly with Waugh, who was the most dangerous winger on view, and who was given too much scope by the left back.

When Morton and McAuley really got on top of things, the Town's cause prospered and the latter, after a moderate first half, distributed the ball brilliantly after the interval.

Whether this attack will settle down into a match-winning combination is difficult to say, but they did show more progressive ideas and there was less waste of time in the development of raids.

Watkins staked a claim for a place with a hard-working successful display and he and Stobbart might well settle down into a useful wing partnership, though Stobbart was inclined to overdo the individualism.

On the other wing, Shanks did not look the orthodox type of outside left, but he worked hard, chased everything with a will, and often came back to help out in defence.

His partner, Davie, often came into the limelight with neat footwork and even though a tendency to hang on to the ball too long, sometimes spoilt the effect, he was responsible for much good constructive work.

Moore was not the harassing, bustling leader that we hoped to see, but his opportunities were limited, and he was given little scope by Woodward.

He did his best to find the open space and often veered out to the wing, but had few chances to demonstrate his shooting powers.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS:
Saphin; Poppitt, Ingham; Parkinson, Woodward, Clayton; Waugh, Duggan, Addinall, Farrow, Shepherd.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Morton, Owen, McAuley; Stobbart, Watkins, Moore, Davie, Shanks.