Goal Average Might Have Had A Decided Boost

By Chiltern

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 0 LUTON TOWN.. 0

For only the second time this season, the Town failed to score when they visited Loftus-road on Saturday, but they had the opportunity to improve their goal average, for they were much superior to the Rangers. However, it seemed that they struck one of those days when the ball simply would not go into the net due to a combination of splendid goalkeeping, indifferent shooting and a certain amount of ill-fortune.

The effectiveness of Brown's goalkeeping was seen at its best in the closing minutes, when he made a near miracle save from a drive by Mitchell that seemed to have "Goal" written all over it.

Mitchell drove the ball through a gap in defence, but Brown, who was behind a ruck of players and must have been unsighted to some extent, threw himself across the goal to divert the ball.

That was probably the best of a series of good saves, and he was undoubtedly the hero of the hour from the Rangers' viewpoint.

The bad luck that attended the Town's scoring efforts began early on when Davie headed against the bar, and shots by Mitchell and Stobbart also struck the woodwork.

More than once there were occasions when neither luck nor Brown should have been able to intervene, for some simple chances went astray, especially in the second half, when the Town exerted terrific pressure.

Twice Taylor failed to get the ball past Brown when left with only the goalkeeper to beat, and Davies got the ball tangled up in his legs when ideally placed.

To some extent the greasy ball affected the accuracy of the finishing.

Beforehand, the fans were saying that if the Town secured a point from this ground, where success is notoriously hard to come by, they would be satisfied.

The hundreds who made the trip had the satisfaction of seeing the Town achieve that object, but probably came away somewhat disappointed that the superiority the team had shown was not wholly reflected in the result.

So far as skill was concerned, there was no comparison between the teams. The Town were invariably a move ahead of the Rangers, and there was considerably more cohesion about their work.

Apart from a short spell in the first half, when the dashing, bustling tactics of the Rangers looked dangerous, their attack was seldom in the picture, and Streten had another trouble-free afternoon.

Rangers spent most of the second half trying to keep out the eager Town forwards, who made two appeals for penalties for hands.

Both were turned down, but there seemed to be solid grounds for one when a defender appeared to punch the ball away following a corner by Mitchell.

For the Town defence, it was a comfortable match, with the only real anxiety being that with so much thrown into attack, the Rangers might make a snap breakaway and snatch a goal.

However, the soundness of Owen, Cooke and Aherne precluded this and Watkins and Shanks, both of whom turned in strong displays, were well upfield backing up the forwards for long periods.

In attack, there was not quite the same smoothness of movement as had been shown against Notts County, but for all that, they played some clever football, much of which deserved a better fate.

Both inside-forwards played well, with Davie reaching his top form in the second half when he made several brilliant solo runs. Stobbart kept the line evenly balanced and was also a worry to Chapman, but the wingers were not quite so effective as they have been.

Mitchell never really gained the upper hand against Poppitt, but his shooting was always liable to produce that most elusive goal.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: Brown; Poppitt, Heath; Gilberg, Chapman, Farrow; Waugh, Smith, Addinall, Cameron, Shepherd.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Taylor (J.), Stobbart, Davie, Mitchell.