

A Late Defensive Lapse Cost The Town A Point

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1 BLACKBURN ROVERS 1

Just when the Town looked likely to scramble home to a lucky victory by a goal from a penalty over bottom dogs, Blackburn Rovers, there came one of those all-too-frequent late lapses by the defence that gave the Rovers the equaliser.

Thus, for the third time this season, a point was lost with less than five minutes' play to run—something that is causing all concerned to view the closing stages of a match with extreme suspicion.

This time, it was the Owen back pass to Streten that came unstuck, for the centre-half's attempt to send back the ball to his goalkeeper was intercepted by HARRIS, who deflected it wide of Streten.

Campbell, Kelly, Bell; Glover, Graham, Harris, Wright, Wharton.

Referee: W. R. Barnes, Birmingham.

Attendance: 20,022.

There were three minutes to go when this occurred and the Town were too shaken to hit back in an attempt to secure another goal.

In any case, goals to the Town had looked something of a remote possibility for most of the game. There were a few close things in the second half, particularly when a shot from Taylor skimmed the post and a header from the same player was diverted into Patterson's hands by Holliday.

Otherwise, the finishing of the forwards was lacking in decision, but this failing was more than equalled by the shyness of the Rovers' forwards in front of goal.

HARRIS MISSED TWICE

They looked even less likely than the Town to score, though Harris had a couple of opportunities, one of them when Owen again misjudged a back pass.

That apart, the Rovers seldom gave the impression of being forceful enough to break down the quite solid Town defence and when the Town took the lead from a penalty after 49 minutes, it seemed to be at least the beginning of the end for them.

Blackburn's protests were in vain and MITCHELL proceeded to drive the ball low past Patterson with all the confidence of the penalty expert he is.

The Town had their opportunities in the first half, for the Rovers' defence opened out in rather shaky fashion, but the forwards, inaccurate in their passing and remiss with their shooting failed to secure the early lead that would have shaken this lowly team.

INSIDE MEN OFF FORM

Both inside forwards had an off-day and could not get the better of two very fine wing halves. Result was that Stobbart did not receive the support that has been coming his way and, in any case, he did not distribute the ball accurately.

Most dangerous of the forwards was Mitchell, with Davies playing cleverly in mid-field, but not producing the finish.

The defence very nearly achieved their third blank sheet in succession and would have done but for Owen's late lapse.

Apart from odd mistakes, they usually had the measure of the Rovers' forwards at close quarters and dangerous shots from them were few.

Owen's two or three second half errors were the only blots on an otherwise impressive display and he was a tower of strength, especially when the light ball was in the air, as it often was.

The wing halves were adequate without being so masterful as in previous matches and there was no fault to find with either Cooke or Aherne who were safe in their tackling and sound in their kicking.

For Streten it was another afternoon which did not provide him with an undue amount of work, but what there was to do, he accomplished competently.

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

BLACKBURN ROVERS: Patterson; Holliday, Eckersley;