

Early Season Lustre Has Gone From Town's Play

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1 EVERTON 1

Much of the Town's early lustre has faded, mainly because the forwards have lost their scoring power and this was one of the chief reasons why, for the fourth home match out of six, they failed to take both points.

There were sufficient chances to have made victory secure in this match even though, in the end, Everton would have been accounted unlucky had they gone away unrewarded.

When one remembers the devastating way in which they whipped Notts County, one wonders what has happened to this forward line which has scored fewer goals in the last seven matches than they gained in 90 minutes against the County.

On that occasion, two early goals were scored and it seems that if the early all-out blitz by the Town forwards fails, then the goals just do not come.

That was the case against Brentford and again on Saturday when only a lucky goal-line save by Lindsay prevented Davies from giving the Town a first-minute lead.

That could have succeeded in just the same way as the attack at the beginning of the second-half when, before Everton had settled down for the second-half, DAVIES had the ball in their net.

It reached there as the result of a perfectly judged header from a cross by Taylor and was a goal that should have laid the foundation of victory.

FAILED TO CONSOLIDATE

That was the time when the Town should have consolidated their position, but although at least two good chances came their way, they failed to accept them and Everton survived to make a late revival.

There had been more craft and better balance in the Everton attack almost throughout the match, mainly because at least one of their forwards, Fielding, was able to get clear of the opposition and take up the open space.

When the equaliser came there

were 16 minutes to go and PARKER hooked into the far corner of the net a pass that came across at an awkward height from Hickson.

Parker had a chance to be the match-winner soon afterwards and, although the Town threw in everything during the closing minutes, Everton held on to their hard-earned point.

Big disappointment was the lack of cohesion of the Town forwards brought about by the fact that Davie had a poor game and Moore, although doing a lot of chasing and hard work, did not fit in.

STOBBART HAD NO SUPPORT

As a rule, Stobbart was left with the unenviable task of challenging the Everton defence on his own, and the only other forward to be a real source of danger was Davies, for Mitchell was well below par, too.

Some of the shortcomings in the front line could fairly be laid at the door of inadequate support from the wing-halves, for Watkins too often placed the ball in the air and, although Taylor kept it down more consistently, he did not look too happy in his new position.

The defence, as a whole, was reasonably sound, although Owen had some worrying moments from the dashing Hickson. Yet, the centre-half had quite a good match, but main honours went to Aherne for a classy display at left-back.

Cooke, too, was quite sound and Stretten, left helpless when the equaliser came, was well on top of his job.

LUTON TOWN.—Stretten; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Taylor (J); Davies, Moore, Stobbart, Davie, Mitchell.

EVERTON.—Leyland; Jones, Lindsay; Donovan, Lindley, Farrell; McNamara, Fielding, Hickson, Buckle, Parker.

Referee.—J. R. Dunbar, Stapleford. Attendance.—16,667.