

# TOWN ATTACK HAS FALLEN AWAY

## ONLY FIVE GOALS IN SEVEN GAMES

## Is This To Be A Season Of Lost Opportunity?

By Chiltern

In the first seven matches this season, the Town scored 16 goals, but in the last seven they have scored only five, which shows only too plainly why only six points have come their way out of the last 14.

Even at home the forwards are not getting the ball into the net and their shortcomings in this direction have cost four of the last six points at stake at Kenilworth-road.

It may well be that when we come to look back over this season, we shall regard it as one of lost opportunity by the Town, even now, the away record has been so good that the Town are still very much in the forefront of the Second Division.

Unless their form before their own supporters improves, they will not maintain that position for long, but it will not have escaped official notice that Luton are only two points behind Brentford and Rotherham, who come next to the leaders, Sheffield United.

A little shrewd buying at this juncture could well have a tonic effect and perhaps bring back the glory of that grand run between the end of August and the end of September.

### Left-Half Remains The Problem Position

UNDOUBTEDLY, the number one problem position is that of left-half and the absence of Wally Shanks is proving more serious than many people thought possible.

In the last four matches, three players have occupied the berth without making a complete success of it, and it seems likely that there will be another change for the visit to Southampton. It was a bold move to switch Taylor there but although he

made the opening that brought the Town's only goal, it could not be said to have promised to be a permanent solution.

### Watkins Did Not Keep The Ball Down

ON the showing of the inside-forwards against Everton on Saturday, the Town can scarcely afford to leave Taylor out of the attack, anyway, despite the fact that he has sadly mislaid his shooting boots recently.

There were times, especially in the first half, when Taylor made good use of the ball and he did try to keep it down, which was what Watkins did not succeed in doing.

Too many times, Watkins spooned the ball up to his forwards and he was well below his recent form, despite the fact that he came very close to snatching a dramatic last-minute winner, being foiled by a brilliant save from Leyland.

### Were Weak In The Vital Positions

WITH the wing halves never really dominating the middle of the field, Davies sadly off his game, and Moore not really fitting in, the Town were weak in the vital positions.

The result was that they seldom

revealed the good approach work that has been produced in so many matches this season.

In the second half, in particular, there was too much persistence in seeking to find a way down the middle by means of not very accurate and often head-high passes that were of little use as workable material to Stobbart who was provided with few real chances.

### Stobbart Was The Lone Ranger

STOBBART is becoming, by force of circumstance, very much of the lone ranger.

Time and again on Saturday he could be seen looking around for assistance which was not forthcoming and the policy of all-out attack so successful in the earlier matches seems to have been abandoned.

Perhaps this is partly due to the uncertainty about the left-half position, but there is the point about Taylor's play that although he has missed simple chances, he has usually been on the spot to take some of the weight off Stobbart.

Apart from a few bright bits of work and a couple of good scoring efforts, Moore was largely out of touch at inside-forward.

### Forward Switch Was Not Successful

SOMEWHAT surprising was the switching of inside-forwards after the interval, occasioned so I understand by a desire to get Davies away from the close marking of Donovan.

However, Davies did not achieve any more material success on the other flank and he was far too often caught in possession and never found the open spaces with the same facility as Everton's Fielding, the most accomplished ball player on the field.

As Mitchell, too, was not allowed much scope and was a lot less dangerous than he can be, this was largely a ragged Town attack.

### Davies Took His Goal Very Well

STOBBART'S hard-working efforts to keep it moving did not meet with much response, though Davies had some lively peccs on the right wing and was next in line to Stobbart as the best Town forward.

It is good to see that Davies has discovered the way to goal. His goal was very well taken and he was unlucky, too, not to have succeeded in the first minute of the game when his header was stopped on the goal-line by Lindsay.

Claims that the left-back used his hands to help keep out the ball were not supported by the referee, but it was a lucky let-off for Everton.

### Early Goal Might Have Changed Things

IN both the last two home matches, the Town might easily have been in the lead early in the game and, in both, too, a goal at that juncture might have made a lot of difference to the course which they took.

Had Everton found themselves a goal down so early on, their confidence might well have been shattered completely and the Town might have coasted on to an easy win.

Which is, of course, all supposition, but is a feasible argument, all the same. There was a time, short enough, it is true, when this match looked as if it might turn out to be a classic.

### Play Degenerated After Bright Start

BOTH forward lines showed plenty of drive and zip in the opening minutes, but gradually the football degenerated into very much of a scramble in which there was much hustle and bustle and not many planned, co-ordinated movements.

Everton's attack looked more skilful than did the Town's but their shooting, too often from highly optimistic range, scaled down the troubles of the Town defence.

Taylor was perhaps unfortunate in having to keep tabs on the accomplished Fielding, the brains behind the Everton moves and there were a couple of close things for the Town when Hickson and Parker both came within inches of scoring.

### Scoring Chances Slipped Away

WHEN Davies headed his picture goal a minute after the interval, it looked as if the Town were at last going to justify the confidence of those who thought they would register a home win. For ten minutes or so they had

### FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN .... 1  
(Davies)  
EVERTON ..... 1  
(Parker)

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

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

Referee. — J. R. Dunbar, Stapleford.

Attendance.—16,667.

the Everton defence in a tangle, but lack of steadiness in front of goal prevented them from adding to the slender lead, and it certainly looked as if Moore should have scored a second goal, and Watkins missed a chance, too.

The possibility of Everton getting on terms could never be overlooked, and the equaliser came 16 minutes from the end, when, in a determined attack, both Cooke and Owen made attempted clearances that went straight to an opponent.

### Polished Display By Aherne

RESULT was that the raid was never really broken up, and eventually Hickson crossed the ball to Parker, who hooked it from nearly shoulder height into the far corner of the net, giving Streten no chance.

There was quite a lot of work for Streten to do at odd times, but he was never in serious trouble, and he made two or three first-class saves.

Standing out in the Town defence was Aherne with a polished display in which his positional sense stood him in good stead.

His kicking with either foot was certain, and the only time he seemed to be really in difficulty was for a short spell in the first half. Afterwards he kept a close grip on McNamara.

### Owen Was Kept Fully Occupied

OWEN found that he had plenty to occupy him in holding the dashing Hickson, of whom quite a lot may be heard in future, but the centre-half came through quite creditably without touching peak form.

There was a useful contribution, too, from the determined Cooke, and the defence has been consistent enough, for in those last seven games when the forwards have been experiencing a goal famine, they have conceded only eight goals.

So, came about another disappointment for the Town fans, and it looks as if the manager is faced by his first real headache

of the season in choosing his team for the visit to Southampton.

### Reserves Deserved A Point

THE Reserves came away from Home Park, Plymouth, feeling that they were a little unfortunate not to have gained a point from their meeting with Argyle, who are highly placed in the Combination.

Recovering from the shock of being two goals down in nine minutes, the Town hit back to draw level through goals by Hall and Hawkes, but went in arrears again when the ex-Chelsea player Machin, scored his second goal of the match.

In all-out pressure during the last five minutes, Plymouth escaped narrowly on two occasions.

### Hall Was The Best Forward

BEST of the forward line was Leslie Hall, leading the attack for the first time this season and, with reasonable luck, he would have had three goals.

Wyldes had a good match, but the remainder of the forwards were rather patchy.

Shining light in defence was Pemberton, who distributed the ball most accurately and, once again, the amateur, Hawkes, showed real promise at left-back. Altogether, it was no bad performance on the Town's part.

### "A" Team Were Disappointing

DISAPPOINTING, though, was the display of the "A" team in losing 5-2 to Hastings Reserves, who played with only 10 men for three-quarters of the game. Even so, they were quicker on the ball and were the more enterprising team.

Mistakes by Stubbards accounted for two of the Hastings goals, but there were gaps in the Town defence and a fatal weakness at inside-forward.

Terry Kelly scored the Town's first goal and an "own goal" accounted for the other.

### Badminton Team For County Match

BADMINTON has made a start to the season and reports are that enthusiasm in the county is very high.

The Bedfordshire League is very strong and there are three divisions embracing clubs from all parts of the county.

Bedfordshire lost 11-4 to Northants, who included England's number 1 player K. Greasley, who won all his matches.

The following team has been chosen to play against Hertfordshire II at Vauxhall next Saturday:

T. Clark, L. Smith, L. Bandy and F. S. Russell (Vauxhall Motors), J. Warrington (Beds 20), Mrs. D. Warrington and Miss E. Bawn (Beds 20), Miss L. Cross (Eaton Socon), Mrs. J. Bailey and Mrs. H. Nye (Vauxhall Motors), Reserve: D. Robinson (Newark B.C.).

## Chiltern's Forecasts

### DIVISION I

Boison Wanderers v Portsmouth  
Burnley v Aston Villa  
Charlton Ath v Derby County  
Fulham v Manchester City  
Manchester Utd v Huddersfield T  
Middlesbrough v Arsenal  
Newcastle Utd v Liverpool  
Preston North End v Sunderland  
Stoke City v Chelsea  
Tottenham Hotspur v Wolves  
West Bromwich v Blackpool

### DIVISION II

Birmingham City v Barnsley  
Brentford v Coventry City  
Cardiff City v Hull City  
Doncaster Rov v Swansea T  
Everton v Bury  
Leeds Utd v Q.P.R.  
Leicester City v Sheffield Utd  
Nottingham Forest v West Ham  
Rotherham Utd v Blackburn Rov  
Sheffield Wed v Notts County  
Southampton v Luton T

### DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v Brighton  
Bristol Rov v Bournemouth  
Colchester Utd v Northampton T  
Crystal Palace v Port Vale  
Exeter City v Reading  
Leyton Orient v Ipswich T  
Norwich City v Newport County  
Plymouth Argyle v Southend Utd  
Shrewsbury T v Gillingham  
Swindon T v Bristol City  
Walsall v Torquay Utd  
Watford v Millwall

### DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington Stanley v Chester  
Barrow v Oldham Ath  
Bradford v Southport  
Carlisle Utd v York City  
Chesterfield v Crewe Alexandra  
Grimsby T v Darlington  
Halifax v Tranmere Rov  
Mansfield T v Scunthorpe Utd  
Rochdale v Lincoln City  
Stockport County v Bradford City  
Wrexham v Hartlepool Utd  
Wrexham v Gateshead

### SCOTTISH LEAGUE

#### DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v Queen of South  
Airdrieonians v Stirling Albion  
Celtic v Third Lanark  
Dundee v Raith Rov  
East Fife v Morton  
Hibernian v Rangers  
Partick Thistle v Hearts  
St Mirren v Motherwell

#### DIVISION "B"

Alton v Albion Rov  
Cowdenbeath v Dumbarton  
Falkirk v Dundee Utd  
Forfar Ath v Clyde  
Hamilton v Stenhousemuir  
Kilmarnock v Arbroath  
Queen's Park v Ayr Utd  
St Johnstone v Dunfermline

### SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Manchester Utd, Newcastle, Stoke, Brentford, Cardiff, Rotherham, Norwich, Plymouth, Carlisle, Grimsby.

FOUR AWAY.—Sheffield Utd, Millwall, Tranmere, Lincoln.

THREE DRAWS.—Middlesbrough v Arsenal; Swindon v Bristol City; Barrow v Oldham

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