

INJURIES BEAT GALLANT TOWN

Held Arsenal While At Full Strength

Luton Town - - 2 Arsenal - - - - 3

By Chiltern

FOR a time this afternoon the Town looked like creating the football sensation of the year by knocking Arsenal out of the Cup and qualifying for the semi-final, but it was not to be.

Sadly handicapped by injuries, the Town were worn down in the end after holding the lead for 52 minutes, following an early goal by Bernard Moore.

Chief Luton casualty is Roy Davies, who was carried off the field 23 minutes from the end when the score was 1-1. He did not return, and it is suspected that he has fractured a bone in his ankle.

This mishap was one of the turning points of this hard-fought game, for Arsenal did not take the lead until the Town were reduced to 10 men.

Cox had gained the equaliser 15 minutes after the interval with a snap goal following a mistake by Cooke. His shot from an angle passed between Streten and the near post and it looked as if the goalkeeper was at fault.

Cox also got the second, 17 minutes from the end, which was the first time Arsenal were ahead in this game, and this heralded a burst of scoring which brought three goals in five minutes.

Milton increased Arsenal's lead and then Mitchell revived Luton's hopes by scoring from a penalty.

Almost as serious from the Town point of view as Davies's injury was the fact that Owen became a casualty just before half-time, when he was fouled by Goring.

The result was that the old ankle trouble recurred and afterwards he could not use his right foot and found extreme difficulty in turning.

This had an undoubted effect on the Town defence, which had had a grip on the Arsenal attack right through the first half.

Cox was too much for Cooke when he moved to outside-left and the Town right back is still much below his old form.

Owen was the outstanding player on the field until his injury, but was run very close by Watkins, so far as the Luton angle was concerned, and by Morton, both of whom turned in excellent displays.

Aherne came through well, and apart from the doubt about at least one goal, Streten was in good form.

Forward, the honours went to Moore and Mitchell, but Taylor, who was expected to be the Town's trump card, was so closely shadowed by the experienced Mercer that he was kept rather quiet, and was often caught in possession.

Stobbart did some useful work in midfield, but, like Taylor, he lost the ball too often and did not make the best use of it.

Altogether, it was an unlucky afternoon for Luton, who, had they remained at full strength, would probably have forced at least a replay.

However, there was honour in this defeat for them.