

No Happy Return For The "Saints" This Time

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2 SOUTHAMPTON 1

All the scoring in this match was sandwiched into a period of 20 minutes before and after the interval, but there could well have been more goals, which would have made the Town's success more convincing, had the finishing matched the approach work.

For all that, a home League win was a welcome sight for it was the first since Boxing Day and also the first time the Saints had failed to collect at least one point from Kenilworth-road since the war.

Southampton scarcely lived up to their reputation and their moderate attack rarely worried a compact Town defence in which Morton was again most prominent.

He has taken to the centre-half position like a duck to water and he marked Judd so closely that the centre-forward was seldom seen as a dangerous force.

So easily did the defence cope with Southampton's rare raids in the first half that it came as a distinct shock and a considerable surprise when Southampton took the lead after 32 minutes.

McGOWAN was left with a shooting chance on the edge of the penalty area, following a throw-in and his shot just eluded Streten as he went full length.

The earlier exchanges had mostly been dominated by the Town whose forwards moved smoothly and cleverly in midfield but could not supply the finish.

EQUALISER FROM PENALTY

It was a penalty that enabled them to regain equality five minutes before the interval when Kiernan fouled Moore and MITCHELL made no mistake from the spot.

In recent matches, the Town have been making better use of throws-in in their opponents' half of the field and from one taken without waste of time by Mitchell, MOORE took possession of the ball and went through to crack it between Kiernan and the near post.

That proved to be the winner and much of the play afterwards produced stalemate in midfield and there were many drab passages.

What beat both teams to a certain extent was the liveliness of the ball on the firm going and this factor made accurate shooting difficult.

There was such good positional play from the defence that Streten was not much troubled and both Dunne and Aherne put up sound displays, though the former sometimes allowed Lowder to get the better of him on the outside.

Day was the potential danger man on the Southampton side and he wandered a lot in an effort to obtain the ball which did not come to him often.

On the whole, he met his match in Aherne, who made few mistakes and kicked splendidly once again.

Shanks made an effective return to Kenilworth-road as a member of the League side and Watkins did well in defence without quite reaching his usual standard in distribution.

Best of the forwards was Moore, who led the attack with dash and skill, was continually linking up with his inside men and also caused the Saints' defence concern with his runs down the wings.

Mitchell, too, was something of a problem to the visitors at times and Sexton did his part in a quiet way that suggested promise for the future.

There was quite a good display from Taylor, but, Stobbart fell away considerably after the interval when he did not make the best use of the support that came his way.

LUTON TOWN : Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Stobbart, Taylor (J), Moore, Sexton, Mitchell.

SOUTHAMPTON : Kiernan; Ellerington, Sillett; Elliott, Clements, Mallett; Day, McGowan, Judd, Bates, Lowder.

Referee: A. Bond, London.

Attendance: 15,551.