

TOWN HELD ON TO AN EARLY LEAD

Coventry Spurred By Relegation Issue

By Chiltern

Luton Town - - 2 Coventry City - 1

WHEN the Town took a two-goals lead within 15 minutes, they looked as if they would make a Roman holiday of the Easter Monday match at Kenilworth-road, with Coventry in the role of Christians.

Things did not turn out that way, but the Town went on to record narrowly, a win, their fifth in the last six matches.

Anxious Coventry, far too intimately concerned with the relegation issue for peace of mind, played desperate football.

It was honest to goodness blunt, robust stuff, and it gave them quite a share of this terrifically hard-fought game. They did not allow the Town's tear-away start to put them off their stroke, though the early goals must have been a severe shock to them.

The first, after 11 minutes, was a brilliant affair scored by MOORE, after a movement that began in the Town's half of the field.

Turner laid on the pass from which Moore bore down on the Coventry goal from the right wing before driving the ball low into the far corner of the net.

Four minutes later SEXTON obtained his first goal in League football when he connected first time with a pass from Morton, and sent the ball well out of Taylor's reach.

Coventry never gave up trying but were baulked for a long time by a Town defence that covered well and in which Streten was again in form.

COVENTRY SHAKY

On the other hand Coventry's defence looked decidedly jittery during the first half, though they settled down more competently afterwards.

Sexton went close to adding to the lead soon after the interval,

but then came a goal by JAMIE-SON, neatly headed from Lockhart's centre, that put fresh heart into Coventry and made the Town's position look considerably less tenable.

After it, Coventry threw in everything in steamroller style, by which method they hoped to sweep the Town defence off their feet.

They looked to be a bit unlucky not to have a penalty when Owen brought down Brown, and Streten made a magnificent full-length save from Lowrie.

CUP ATMOSPHERE

Although play was fast and exciting and there was something of a cup-tie atmosphere about it, the football never reached a high standard. For much of this Coventry's parlous position could be blamed, and the teams had to contend too with the lively, difficult ball on the hard pitch.

The Town weathered the not inconsiderable storm produced by the Coventry forwards, and after a lean spell the Town forwards came into the picture again.

After this there was a narrow escape for the Town when Brown was allowed to go through from a palpable offside position. Streten came out to half smother the ball, and Aherne rushed up to save the situation by booting the ball over the bar.

At the other end Taylor saved grandly a free-kick by Mitchell, in similar circumstances to a clearance he had made from Moore in the first half.

Right up to the end the excitement continued but the Town defence stood firm and tamed these lively hard-battling Coventry forwards.

Once again Owen was in splendid form, and there was no weakness in the rearguard. Most dangerous of the forwards was Moore, always working and seeking to find openings, and the left wing was better balanced than the right.

Sexton deserved his initial goal in the League, for he has had some bad luck lately. At inside-right Turner came in for Taylor, troubled again by a groin injury, and though he did some neat things he seemed to be troubled by the pace of this hard-fought encounter.

The Town will make one change for their visit to Coventry this afternoon.

This affects the inside-right position where Turner is rested, and either Stobbart or McJarrow will come in.

Taylor (J) is still unfit, and Stobbart who did not play for the Reserves at Coventry yesterday has recovered from slight injury.

Attendance: 15,216.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Shanks, Turner, Moore, Sexton, Mitchell.

COVENTRY CITY: Taylor; McDonnell, Mason (R.); Dorman, Kirk, Cook; Warner, Jamieson, Brown, Lowrie, Lockhart.

Referee: W. Ling, of Cambridge.