

Two Goals In A Minute Shock For The Town

By Chiltern

BIRMINGHAM CITY .. 3 LUTON TOWN 1

Not until 14 minutes from the end did Birmingham make certain of picking up those vitally-important points at St. Andrew's on Saturday.

At that stage they were leading by a single goal, but then they suddenly rocked the Town defence to its foundations by scoring twice in the space of a minute.

Previously, apart from the goal that PURDON scored, five minutes before the interval, the Town defence had coped with some ferocious attacks launched by the tall, direct City forwards and Birmingham's hopes hung by a slender thread for a long time.

There were periods when the Town looked much the more polished team and when they played some highly intricate football in midfield.

However, they could not turn that approach work into finishing power and, in the main, the home defence brought a speedy end to much work that held potential promise.

On the other hand, Birmingham cut out the frills in favour of straightforward football and their style paid the dividends.

They owed much to the strength of their wing halves, especially Boyd, who was allowed to come through with the ball far too often and much danger emanated from his forays.

Just before Birmingham obtained their second goal, Moore missed a good chance of equalising and, as if that escape had goaded them on to greater determination, the City hit back and STEWART put on the second goal after Smith had headed down a corner from Purdon.

EVENTFUL QUARTER OF AN HOUR

This was followed almost immediately by another goal by BRIGGS, who fastened on to a through pass and drove the ball past the oncoming Streten.

To complete an eventful last quarter of an hour, the Town gained their consolation goal a minute from the end when WARHURST put the ball into his own net in an attempt to clear a shot from Mitchell.

It was a difficult game for the Town defence in facing the determined Birmingham raids. Owen was outstanding and so was Streten, who made a series of brilliant saves.

Both Shanks and Aherne had

extra work thrown upon them by the latitude given to Boyd and were below their best. Morton did well, being strong in the tackle and Jones had quite a good match.

Pick of the forward line was the debutant, Cullen, who showed splendid football sense and, with a bit of luck, would have celebrated his first appearance with a goal.

As a whole, the line did not carve out the openings quickly enough and there was a distinct tendency to run with the ball instead of making the ball do the work.

Both the inside forwards were inclined to do this, but Stobbart was more successful than McJarow. Few openings came the way of Moore who was much in the grip of Ferris, and Mitchell was rather spasmodic and did not touch his recent form.

BIRMINGHAM CITY. — Merrick; Green, Martin; Boyd, Ferris, Warhurst; Stewart, Smith, Briggs, Purdon, Murphy.

LUTON TOWN. — Streten; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Stobbart, Moore, McJarow, Mitchell.

Referee: W. J. Edwards, Yeovil.
Attendance: 29,000.