

Finished With Ten Men, But Town Had First Win

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN ... 2 ROTHERHAM UNITED 1

When the sweeping changes the Town were forced to make for this match because of injuries became known, many supporters were none too confident about the outcome, but those who went were gratified to see a marked improvement in the Town's display.

Especially so was this the case in attack, changed in three positions and which gave a lively first-half display.

So much of the play did the Town have in the first half that had the shooting matched the approach work, the match would have been won and lost by the interval.

There were two smartly-taken goals by TURNER in the 7th and 35th minutes, the first from a pass by Cullen and the second following a shrewdly-taken throw-in by Moore.

Both were shots made from quite acute angles which left Bolton with no chance of saving.

With the Town dominating the play and dictating the way things should go, other chances cropped up, but, although there were some near misses, there were missed chances, too, and they had to be content with a 2—0 interval lead which could quite easily have been doubled.

However, the line moved with altogether more liveliness and understanding, and that so many shots were produced was a welcome sign.

After their total eclipse in the first half, Rotherham had to have a bit of a show some time, and they began to show improvement after heavy Town pressure early in the second half had been surmounted by their struggling defence.

COOKE WAS INJURED

Nothing very serious developed, though, until Cooke was injured in trying to prevent a corner, from which Rawson put the ball into the goalmouth for FARMER to breast the ball in.

It was at this critical moment that it was realised that the injury to Cooke was a good deal more serious than had seemed the case at first.

He was taken off the field, not to return, and the game might very well have swung against the depleted Town in the last vital 25 minutes.

However, with Morton at right-back and Turner at right-half the defence coped adequately, and the forwards managed some raids, in one of which an intervention by Noble prevented a certain goal when Moore tried to lay on a near open goal by pulling the ball back from the dead-line.

Despite a switch by Grainger and Marsden, the Rotherham forwards remained a moderate lot, and the only incident that really set Luton hearts fluttering was when Grainger suddenly took aim for goal.

WONDER SAVE BY STRETEN

Streten went up to cover the ball, which was deflected sharply en route by Hall's head, and the goalkeeper had to make a twist in mid-air to reach the ball on its new line of flight. It was a great save that undoubtedly enabled the Town to record their first win of the season.

Effective in attack was the new right-wing pair of Cullen and Turner, with the former giving high promise of filling the problem position.

Shanks did not quite maintain his first-half form after the interval, and Davies, good in patches, laid on some openings of which use was not made.

From Moore, there was plenty of hard work and foraging down the wings. Generally, he led the attack well, but there was room for improvement in his finishing.

Cooke, Hall and Aherne formed a solid defensive block, with Hall making a most successful return to the team. Morton had a good game, and if Watkins was not quite so dominant he played a useful part in the well-deserved success.

As for Streten, it was an easy afternoon for him, apart from that hair-raising moment when Grainger's shot was deflected.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Morton, Hall, Watkins; Cullen, Turner, Moore, Shanks, Davies.

ROTHERHAM UNITED: Bolton; Selkirk, Noble; Edwards, Regan, Williams (D); Grainger, Marsden, Farmer, Guest, Rawson.

Referee: R. H. Mann, Worcester.

Attendance: 14,427.