

No Goals, But There Were Chances For Several

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 0 WEST HAM 0

Nearly half the meetings between these two teams have ended with the spoils divided and this was the fifth time that a goalless draw has been the result.

Yet there could and should have been quite a number of goals, for each team had the chances to make sure of victory, but both sets of forwards were guilty of some poor finishing.

Opportunities came the way of West Ham during the first half when, against a Town team that was most sluggish, they had the bulk of the play.

Sadly lacking, however, was a marksman to round off their approach work, and the nearest they came to gaining the lead they undoubtedly deserved was when Gregory (J.) drove the ball against a post.

During this period, the Town were almost unbelievably inaccurate in their passing. Time and time again the ball went straight to a West Ham defender, with the result that constructive movements by the Town were rare.

It was obvious that some change would have to be made for the second half, and it took the form of switching Pye and Moore to positions in which they are most used to playing.

This almost yielded an immediate dividend, for scarcely was play on again than Pye missed opening the score by a matter of inches.

Two or three minutes later, he was similarly unlucky and, throughout the second half, he was the cleverest, most dangerous forward on the field.

PYE CREATED OPENINGS

Part of the trouble in the first half had been that the Town had no inside forward to hold the ball with a view to making an opening, but Pye remedied this deficiency, and with the rest of the team showing an improvement, the Town were much on top in the second half.

The goals did not come though, although chances cropped up, and Gregory (E.) made wonder saves from Pye and Moore.

From the Town point of view, it was a disappointing result and, despite their second-half revival, all is not well with the Town attack yet.

Davies responded well to the second-half promptings of Pye, but Moore did not make a lot of impression in the middle, and Turner, with few scoring chances coming his way, was much below par.

There were some clever and quite effective interludes from Cullen, who, however, showed a tendency to hold the ball over-long.

With the wing-halves not getting a grip on things before the interval, the defence had a jittery spell, but they got over that, and were in command in the second half.

Close marking by Dunne and Aherne meant that little threat came from Woodgate and Tucker, and Moroney had few chances against Owen who was much more certain of himself once the second half began.

Morton and Watkins, too, came more into their own then, but both were culprits earlier on through their inaccurate use of the ball.

For Streten, this was the opportunity to re-establish himself, and he seized it avidly to give a most confident display and to keep the score sheet clean.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Cullen, Turner, Pye, Moore, Davies.

WEST HAM: Gregory (E.); Wright, Bond; Parker, Allison, O'Farrell; Woodgate, Barrett, Moroney, Gregory (J.), Tucker.

Referee: W. B. Everett, Beccles. Attendance: 16,009.