

Town Scored Goals When They Were Most Needed

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 4 SHEFFIELD UNITED 1

The final score of this match at Kenilworth-road does not give a true indication of the thrills and vicissitudes experienced during it.

At one time the Town were well on top and set for an easy victory. Then they were set struggling by an early second-half goal by United, after which came the climax in which the United were shattered completely by two goals in a minute.

It was the sort of game that has resulted when one or other of the Sheffield teams has visited Luton on previous occasions, with as many thrills as anyone could want and plenty of action throughout.

Apart from the result, which was probably a good deal better than most people even dared to hope for, the best feature was the way in which the Town tackled their job.

They knew they had no ordinary task in taking on the Second Division leaders, and they knuckled down to it in extraordinarily capable style.

There was no cautious approach to the situation, but the tactics were based on attacking from the start with the hope of securing an early goal and building up from that foundation.

Sure enough, the goal came, and it was that sort of cut and thrust match in which the team to open the scoring gained an undeniable advantage.

So, WATKINS'S first success of the season was doubly valuable to the Town, since it gave them the initiative after 13 minutes, and took some of the sting out of the United's raids.

PROGRESSIVE, ACCURATE FOOTBALL

It was the culmination of neat work between Watkins and Moore and the former's shot from the edge of the penalty area left Burgin hopelessly placed.

So was the second goal 20 minutes later the fruits of a clever move, the instigator this time being Pye, who made the opening for MOORE to increase the lead.

Right through the first half, the Town forwards played fast, progressive accurate football that had the United defence bothered time and time again and, with a bit more luck, their half-time lead would have been greater.

Obviously, the United's second half plan was to make every effort for a quick goal and when McNAB obtained it after Streten had failed to clear an awkward centre by Browning, the Town had their period of struggle.

This lasted for perhaps a quarter of an hour during

which we saw the full force of this United attack, directed brilliantly by Hagan and backed up by the wing halves, Brook and Shaw (J).

For the Town defence this was a desperate, trying phase which they survived pluckily, even though, they were drawn out of position badly at times.

Gradually, though, they came back and had begun to show their confident form of the first half when PYE scored the third goal when a shot from Moore rebounded to him off a defender's legs.

That was after 70 minutes and a minute later, MITCHELL coolly shot through from the penalty spot after he himself had been pulled down by Shaw (G).

No team could hope to stage a rally after those quick blows and despite the fact that the United did not give up, they were never allowed to gain any sort of ascendancy again.

BRILLIANT INSIDE TRIO

Indeed, the Town became once more, the rip-roaring combination of the first half and the United were fortunate to escape going further into arrears.

For the Town's inside trio, it was a triumphant match. All three scored and all three turned in sparkling displays. This was Moore's most successful game at inside-right, Pye led the attack finely and Watkins was a great craftsman.

The wingers did not reach the same standard, for Davies wasted too much material, enough of which did not come the way of Mitchell, who had rather a quiet afternoon.

From the defence, too, came a brilliant contribution, with Owen taking a grip on Browning and the middle of the field, and Morton shining as the best wing-half on view.

Then there were Dunne and Aherne, pressing home their claims for Eire caps by the quality of their play, and Shanks, though bothered by the cleverness of Hagan, doing his share.

Maybe Streten made an error when the goal was scored, but we can forget that when we remember a sensational first half save from Hagan and the competency of the remainder of his work.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Moore, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

SHEFFIELD UTD.: Burgin; Furniss, Shaw (G.); Brook, Latham, Shaw (J.); Ringstead, Hagan, Browning, McNab, Hawkesworth.

Referee: F. L. Overton, Derby.
Attendance: 18,158.