

UNUSUAL FEAT BY LESLIE JONES

Scored The Goal That Set Town On Winning Path

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2 FULHAM 0

Only three times in the last 18 matches have the Town tasted defeat and, apart from one short spell in the first half, they were never in danger of sampling it when they received Fulham at Kenilworth-road. Fulham missed their chance during five minutes when Stevens struck the bar and Robson, who should have scored, sent the ball against the inside of the post.

Those incidents apart, Fulham always looked to be on the losing end, for the Town were a more virile, dangerous combination. They had fewer weaknesses, better understanding and more punch in attack.

From the start, the Town began moving the ball about quickly, tactics admirably suited to the sticky conditions and they always made ground by direct methods, whereas Fulham often relied too much on the short pass and tended to play across the field.

For a full-back to score other than from a penalty or a free-kick, is an unusual occurrence, but JONES did so when the Fulham defence was caught off guard from a corner.

Instead of ballooning the ball into the crowded goalmouth, Davies pulled it back and Jones, rushing up at speed, found the net with a high shot that bounced in off the underpart of the bar with Flack probably badly unsighted.

That was after 20 minutes and happened before the couple of narrow escapes experienced by the Town.

FLACK KEPT BUSY

Once over that, the Town got a grip again and Flack, a late choice as goalkeeper, made at least three first-class saves from efforts that deserved goals.

However, he was nowhere near the ball when MOORE increased the lead five minutes before the interval with an extremely well-placed shot after Taylor (A.) had pushed the ball back to him.

In the first minute of the second half only an agile dive by Flack prevented Pye from getting his usual goal and hard though he tried, the centre-forward could not score.

Without being able to look really dangerous, Fulham had quite a reasonable share of the second half play and it was seldom that Baynham was in any kind of trouble.

Other goals to the Town looked far more likely, but although the Fulham goal had some narrow escapes, they did not arrive.

The soundness of their defence was a feature of the Town display and, in the last three home League games, they have not conceded a goal.

Right through, there was no weakness and the supremacy which the middle line achieved had much to do with keeping the score-sheet blank.

The dangerous Jezard was allowed little room in which to operate by Owen, who was always there to bar the way while Morton, immensely strong in the tackle, saw to it that Brennan had little opportunity of making a successful come-back to the ground on which he played so many times in the Town colours.

BIG SUCCESS OF JONES

Robson had no more success against the busy Shanks and the close-marking and good covering of the defence was there for all to see.

For Jones, there was one of the most trying tests he has yet faced in opposing the famous Mitten, and he gave further proof of his great ability by shutting the wing almost completely out of the game.

This was done in classic style and it is obvious that Jones has come to stay.

Apart from one uncertain patch, Aherne was confident and assured and Baynham, not kept very busy by the Fulham forwards, did everything that was required of him, apart from one blemish in the first half when he was lucky to get away with an error.

The more forceful and progressive wing was that formed by Davies and Moore, both of whom played well and the former's speed gave Lowe (R.) an uncomfortable afternoon.

Naturally, Pye's scoring feats are bringing him more and more attention from opposing defenders, but he will not often face such a fine centre-half as Jim Taylor.

The Fulham man was much more successful than previous centre-halves have been against Pye, but, despite this and the fact that the support for him was not of the best, Pye was always a menace to the visitors' defence.

Unfortunately, Arthur Taylor's display fell some way below that of his debut the previous week, particularly in the quality of his finishing, which was very much off the mark.

Turner rather fell away after a good first half and the new partnership could scarcely be termed a success, though it might well be if given time in which to settle down.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Moore, Pye, Turner, Taylor.

FULHAM: Flack; Pavitt, Lowe (R.); Lowe (E.), Taylor (J), Hill; Stevens, Robson, Jezard, Brennan, Mitten.

Referee: R. J. Burgess, Reading.

Attendance: 21,409.