

THE TOWN ATTACK LACKED PUNCH

Close Passing Played Into Everton's Hands

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1 EVERTON 1

From these two teams widely tipped in before-the-season forecasts as likely promotion candidates and potentially prolific goal-scorers, there was little of the free-scoring look in this match at Kenilworth-road.

Both forward lines were frankly disappointing and it must have come as something of a shock to 20,217 spectators to see the Town attack so lacking in punch.

At half-time we were saying that the changes had brought about an improvement, with the reservation that the finishing was not impressive, but, in the first half, the Town looked a better balanced lot than they had on Wednesday.

Taking the lead when McJARROW fastened on to a through pass from Watkins and swept it into the net as Leyland dived at his feet, the Town seemed to be steering for their first victory.

After some early activity at the Everton end when Taylor had a great shot fisted over by Leyland, Clinton headed off the goal-line from Downie and McJarrow went close to scoring, the Town forwards became more and more in the grip of the resolute, hard-tackling visiting defence.

More than that, they played into the hands of the opposition by continuing to keep the ball close and employing short passes that sent it only a few yards.

Too many passes were made square and even backwards and we seldom saw the cut-and-thrust movements and any real attempt to open out the play.

THE UNDERLYING QUERY

During the first half there was some neat work but there was always that underlying query about who was likely to figure as an outstanding marksman.

This lack of punch cost them a home point, for in the 63rd minute Eglington made a run down the left wing, rounded Dunne and pulled the ball back into the penalty area.

There, BUCKLE, who had closed in from the wing, met it on the drop and sent it streaking into the net.

The tricky, gusty wind undoubtedly robbed the football of some of its quality, but the game simply died and there was never much chance of either team obtaining the deciding goal.

Downie did not display his opportunist powers of the previous match and Cummins did not show the form that induced the Town to part with a five figures fee.

His play was far too dainty, and with McJarrow also holding on to the ball, far too much time was taken to make ground.

Davies had quite a good game, though his finishing was indifferent at times and Taylor improved somewhat in the second half after a very uncertain start.

IMPROVED DEFENCE

It was good to see a decided tightening up in the defensive system with Morton filling the bill at

centre-half and Watkins celebrating his return with a strong, forceful display.

Shanks had not struck his best form yet, especially in his distribution of the ball, but Aherne was sound and Dunne, faced with the difficult task of subduing Eglington, earned more than pass marks for what he accomplished.

From Streten, there came some excellent and daring saves and only one real error which, fortunately, did not cost a goal.

About 10 minutes from the end, Aherne was taken off the field with a badly gashed head following a collision with Euckle, who was able to resume after leaving the field for a short time.

LUTON TOWN. — Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Watkins, Morton, Shanks; Davies, Downie, McJarrow, Cummins, Taylor.

EVERTON. — Leyland; Clinton, Donovan; Farrell, Jones, Lello; Buckle, Fielding, Hickson, Parker, Eglington.

Referee: A. W. Luty, Leeds.