

SCORING CHANCES WENT ASTRAY AGAIN

Disputed Goal Finally Gave Fulham The Points

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1 FULHAM 2

Missed chances by the Town again proved disastrous in this match at Kenilworth-road on Saturday and although the forward line was largely disappointing, they did have sufficient opportunities to have made certain of two points.

The continued lack of punch in the finishing, coupled with the fact that the inside forwards generally held on to the ball too long and failed to open up the play, were the main reasons for this somewhat unexpected defeat.

Quicker use of the ball would have brought much better results and would have given the wingers, Scott and Mitchell a real chance to use their speed and thrust.

When the ball came their way, both looked dangerous, especially Mitchell who, despite some unnecessarily rough handling by Chenhall, was the one forward always ready to have a crack at goal, and he was distinctly unlucky with his shooting.

Had his luck really been in, and had the rest of the forwards shown the same powers of marksmanship, this game could have been safely sewn up by the Town before the interval.

As it was, Fulham reached that stage on level terms, but it was not particularly surprising when the Town took the lead after 48 minutes.

TOWN DREW FIRST BLOOD

A foul by Chenhall on Mitchell brought a free-kick that Pemberton placed into the goalmouth and Downie headed to CUMMINS, who drove the ball into the net as Black rushed at him.

If the Town supporters thought this was to be the fore-runner of better things, they were sorely disappointed, for Fulham were in arrears for only seven minutes before LOWE scored a remarkable equaliser.

Picking up a loose ball, he came through fast, and with the defence backing away was able to go on unchallenged and beat Baynham with a powerful drive from outside the penalty area.

In the midst of a lot of scrappy play afterwards there developed one quick movement when Pye switched out to the left, crossed the ball, and only a point-blank save by Black prevented Mitchell from scoring.

As it was, the match seemed to be fizzling out into an inevitable draw when there came a surprise goal from Fulham.

It was the sort of affair that causes continual argument afterwards and came as the result of JEZZARD being allowed to go through from what looked to be an obvious offside position.

The Town defence waited for the whistle and there was near consternation when the referee awarded a goal on the grounds that Jezard had been put onside by the ball touching a Town player.

That was the end of the Town and Fulham scraped through fortunate winners of one of those

matches that cannot be forgotten too quickly.

NEED FOR VARIATION IN STYLE

Once again the need for some variation in style among the inside-forwards was pressed home. Downie was much out of touch again and although Cummins was much more in the game, he did a lot of unnecessary dribbling when a quick pass was called for.

Pye is not getting the best of service, but he is keeping the ball too close, too, and he missed a couple of good chances.

From Scott, there was plenty of fight and liveliness and, with more of the ball, he might easily have turned defeat into victory.

The defence was adequate without being commanding, with Morton again a great barrier at centre-half and Watkins taking the eye with a good deal of successful work.

Still struggling to regain his best form, Shanks has not succeeded yet and his display was only moderate, and there is no doubt that the drive of Morton is being missed at wing-half.

Jones was more impressive than Pemberton, but the partnership did not look so solid as the usual one. Fault for the goals could not be debited against Baynham, who was as much taken by surprise by Lowe's shot as were the rest of the defence.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Jones, Pemberton; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Scott, Downie, Pye, Cummins, Mitchell.

FULHAM: Black; Chenhall, Lawler; Smith, Brice, Lowe (E); Stevens, Robson, Jezard, Haynes, Mitten.

Referee: F. L. Overton, Derby.
Attendance: 18,619.