

LITTLE ENTHUSIASM GREETED THIS WIN

Unexciting Game Had A "Friendly" Atmosphere

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 3 HULL CITY 1

Rarely at Kenilworth-road has a victory for the Town been greeted with less show of enthusiasm, and the gloomy atmosphere at the end was more reminiscent of a home defeat.

Reason for it was contained in the dull game, the poor quality football and the recurring mistakes by both teams which all added up to an encounter that was more like a "friendly" than a struggle for points.

That the Town gained both points was a matter of satisfaction, for they were badly needed to check the recent downward trend, and, although there was not much to indicate anything of the sort, the optimists will be hoping that this will be the start of better things.

One comforting feature was that the team scored more goals than in any League match since the first of the season, and that this happened was mainly due to Turner.

Brought back to the exclusion of expensive capture, Downie, TURNER set the Town towards victory with a well-taken goal from his favourite angled position 13 minutes after the start, when he ran on to a headed pass by Moore after Mitchell had hit the ball across the field.

A goal at that point was needed, because Hull had been looking the more lively team, and they continued to do so, but only in midfield, for their finishing was weak in the extreme.

SLICE OF LUCK FOR TOWN

Fortune smiled on the Town when, after half an hour, WATKINS made a speculative shot from fairly long range, and Forgan failed to get hold of the ball which spun away from him over the line to put the Town two up.

Probably, that was more than they were worth on the run of the play, but there was little potential danger from Hull, and they did not manage to reply until three minutes from the end, when PORTEOUS caused a mild fluttering by banging the ball in off the inside of the post following a corner by Fagan.

There was no determined bid for an equaliser and, a minute from time, TURNER took a pass from Moore to bang the ball high into the net. Immediately afterwards, a shot from the same player struck the bar and post and the ball still came back into play.

Mainly because they had an opportunist, the Town deserved the points, but they were far from impressive as a team. The forwards rarely settled down to cohesive working and, again, there was too much reliance on the short pass.

Best of the line was Cummins, and even he blotted his display with strange inaccuracies and somewhat erratic distribution of the ball.

PYE WAS INEFFECTIVE

Pye has rarely been so ineffective when leading the Town attack, and with him out of touch, and not getting the best of support either, there was little balance about the front line.

From the right wing pair, there were hints of possible success in the future because Moore got the ball across consistently, and Turner showed that he has an acutely-developed goal sense. During the second half, he was handicapped by an ankle injury.

After a bright start, Mitchell was closely shadowed by Frank Harrison and, with not the best of service coming his way either, was not very successful after the interval.

Streten, Dunne and Aherne were a trio who could claim to have made fewer mistakes than their team-mates, and they came through a not too arduous task with full credit.

On the other hand, Morton

seemed more worried than in any previous match at centre-half and was not the assertive, confident player he has been.

The forwards could point to the fact that the service they received from the wing-halves was not of the best, but Watkins turned in a useful performance, and the enthusiasm and endeavour of Shanks helped to cover up the fact that he has not yet struck his best form.

One contributory factor to the poor football produced was the treacherous surface of the pitch which had been watered.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Moore, Turner, Pye, Cummins, Mitchell.

HULL CITY: Forgan; Harrison (F.), Neal; Porteous, Berry, Jensen; Harrison (K.), Murray, Gerrie, Tarrant, Fagan.