

EVERTON'S WIN CAME AT SIXTH ATTEMPT

Beat The Town For First Time In A League Match

By Chiltern

EVERTON 2 LUTON TOWN 1

For the first time in a League match and, at their sixth attempt, Everton beat the Town, from whose point of view, ironically enough, this was the vital meeting of the six and the one from which they most needed both points.

A check though this was to their promotion progress and the end of their long unbeaten run, the Town, lacking the services of two of their stalwarts, Pye and Morton, still managed to give their opponents a fright.

Right through the match it was very much on the cards that they would at least hold this strong opposition, and they could perhaps consider themselves a bit unfortunate that they did not do so in the circumstances, though there is no gainsaying that Everton deserved to win in view of the way they struck back in the second half.

Turning point of a hard, "no quarter" duel came in the opening minute of the second half, when Everton managed to rub out the arrears they had suffered 10 minutes before the interval when CUMMINS scored against his former colleagues.

The Town came out well aware of the danger that the opening spell would hold for them, and they had already had a sample of it early in the first half, but, even so, they could not prevent their lead being wiped out by a snap goal from PARKER.

A free kick just inside the Town half that led to the ball being worked out to Eglington, eventually, was the forerunner of the success, and when Eglington centred there did not appear to be, on the surface, any more danger than previous crosses from the winger had held.

STREten CLAIMED A FOUL

This time, Streten tried to make a catch and, because Hickson went up with him, could not get a hold of the ball, which fell to Parker, who drove it through despite Owen's attempt to get his body in the way.

There was an immediate appeal by Streten for a foul—ignored by the referee—and the Town defence had to face a very sticky 10 minutes or so after this.

At length, the Town forwards began to take a hand, produced some uneasy moments for the home defence, none more anxious than when Cummins crossed the ball in front of their goal, with Mitchell just short of being able to apply the finishing touch.

More of the play, however, was going the way of Everton. They missed two or three chances that had a gilt-edged look about them before they gained what proved to be the deciding goal 15 minutes from the end.

A quick clearance up the middle was seized on by Hickson, who beat Owen cleverly and made a reverse pass to EGLINGTON, who looked to be in an offside position.

At least he was so far as the players in the immediate vicinity were concerned, but Aherne, on the other side of the field, was

lying back, and the linesman judged Eglington to be onside as he swept the ball through.

It was a forlorn hope for the Town after that, though they put up a commendable fight, and both Turner and Scott went close in the last minutes.

Story of the first half had been different, with the Town more dangerous than they were later, with their attack better together and showing more zip in their finishing.

SCOTT MADE TOWN'S GOAL

It was from a centre by Scott that struck Donovan en route that Cummins obtained his chance of putting the Town ahead, and there might have been other goals.

Yet, before they obtained anything like a grip, they had to survive a remarkable period during which Everton used the ball with such effect that pass after pass found its billet, with the Town powerless to do much about it.

Fortunately for them, this phase did not last long, and did not carry with it the finish that could have turned much immaculate work into goals.

Neither of the Town wingers was in anything like his best form which was a pity, for more harassing work from them might have upset the equanimity of an Everton defence that belied its somewhat doubtful reputation.

Cummins toiled and toiled, with a fair amount of success, despite a tendency to hold the ball too long, at times, and could certainly be put down as one of the Town's successes.

From Scott there was quite an encouraging show in not particularly easy circumstances, for he was whole-hearted in everything he did and, with not the best of support in the shape of through passes, still managed to worry the opposition.

Without being quite so impressive in midfield as he has been, Turner was still the man who looked the part of the opportunist and he tried to open things out in the second half with cross-field passes.

While Shanks and Watkins were more or less in control of the middle of the field, as they were for the greater part of the first half, the Town always had a real chance, but, gradually, they were worn down, and Everton got a hold of the situation.

Even so, the pluckiness of the defence nearly retained a vital point which was not surrendered without a tremendous battle.

Watkins was the more successful wing-half and Owen was outstanding in the middle where Hickson found little scope.

Both Dunne and Aherne did well against elusive wingers, but the biggest cheer of all was reserved for Streten, who made several dramatic saves and things might have gone even worse for the Town had he not been in top-flight form.

Even so, things might have gone better for them, which only goes to show just what a toss-up this game can be.

EVERTON: O'Neill; Moore, Lindsay; Farrell, Donovan, Lello; Wainwright, Fielding, Hickson, Parker, Eglington.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Shanks, Owen, Watkins; Davies, Turner, Scott Cummins, Mitchell.

Referee: A. W. Luty, Leeds.
Attendance: 33,544.