

# 20,000 SAW LUTON WIN

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The biggest attendance since the opening matches of the season, 20,133, saw the Town take adequate revenge for their previous day's defeat, but not before they had some very anxious moments.

In a game of varying phases, either side could have held a commanding lead and it was the Town who had the first chance of doing so.

For their task they could scarcely have had a more encouraging start than a goal from TURNER four minutes after the start with a shot from near the edge of the penalty area, the pace of which Gregory seemed to mis-judge.

Two or three times after this, had the ball really run kindly for

the Town in front of goal, they would have put themselves in an impregnable position, for there were distinct signs of panic among the Hammers' defenders and even the usually safe Gregory seemed ill at ease.

However, despite some close calls, the goals did not come and West Ham, no doubt encouraged by this fact, suddenly got into the game with a vengeance and, for quite a spell, they were on top and were unlucky several times not to go ahead.

Although the Town were still ahead at half-time, they must have felt that they were slightly fortunate to be in such a position, remembering the quality of the



### JESSE PYE

is on the injured list at the moment, but that did not stop him watching the Town beat West Ham at Kenilworth-road on Boxing Day.

saves Streten had made, the goal-line clearances of Jones and Owen and the shot from Hooper that smacked against the inside of the post and sent the ball obligingly rebounding into the arms of Streten.

## HAMMERS' PERIOD OF SUPREMACY

There was, too, a penalty claim that the referee held to be no more than an indirect free kick for obstruction and there were wry faces among the West Ham officials at half-time about the way fortune was treating them.

Period of supremacy for the Hammers' dated from the time the Town lost their grip in mid-field, but the second half brought an all-round improvement from the Town with consequently fewer chances for the Hammers' forwards.

A spectacular goal following a solo run by Mitchell after 61 minutes put the Town within sight of both points, but the Hammers hit back quickly four minutes later through DIXON, left with a comparatively easy task after Streten had gone down full length to a shot by Foan.

In view of their first-half form, many expected a big rally from the Hammers after this, but they seemed to have put all they knew into that first-half bid and although there were one or two sticky moments for the Town, their defence was never in the same trouble as had been the case during that earlier spell.

What anxiety about the position remained and there did not seem to be a lot at that stage, was removed 12 minutes from the end when TURNER made no mistake about sweeping through a low centre by Cummins.

So, the Town were worthwhile and convincing winners in the end, mainly because the forwards showed more punch at close quarters.

Arguments about the respective merits as leader of Scott and Moore are bound to arise now and the latter certainly kept Allison more on the move than the previous occupant of the position.

In this he was helped by his speed and the way in which he got out of the middle and he was often a real source of danger.

Turner lived up to his reputation as an opportunist, played some good football apart from that and there was a deal of work, too, from Cummins. Davies did not have a completely happy day and Mitchell was a bit spasmodic, but, there was a lot more life and fire about the line as a whole than had been the case the previous day.

The wing halves were more on top of things after the interval than they had been earlier, with Shanks a hard worker, but Watkins again none too accurate in his distribution.

Without being so commanding as he can be, Owen came through well enough and there was a most convincing display from Jones, making a return to the team after quite a lengthy spell of reserve service.

Again, he impressed with his coolness, his fine positional sense and his use of the ball.

Although sometimes troubled by the speed of Hooper, Aberne played hard and quite effectively, but the Town's hero was really Streten for his great part during the time that the tide was running against them.

**LUTON TOWN.** — Streten; Jones, Aberne; Shanks, Owen, Watkins; Davies, Turner, Moore, Cummins, Mitchell.

**WEST HAM.** — Gregory; Wright, Bond; Malcolm, Allison, Bing; Hooper, Foan, Dixon, Dick, Andrews.

Referee.—F. S. Fiander, Loud-