

The Other Critics:

PRAISED LUTON'S PLAY

Goalless draws are often dull affairs, and national newspaper critics often find fault with such matches as spectacles.

Portsmouth and Luton figured in a goalless draw on Saturday—but there were few complaints!

All agreed that it was a first-class game with both sides—and Luton in particular—playing attractive football.

The only criticism of Luton's play was that their finishing was not as good as their approach work.

This is what some of the critics said:

"It is fantastic that a Soccer game jam-packed with all the speed, polish and drama of the Portsmouth-Luton thriller should finish a goalless draw. . . . What a superb footballing machine Dally Duncan has welded here."—*Sunday Dispatch*.

"If Luton had made the most of their chances they might easily have built up another of their 'cricket' scores which have earned them fame in the last few weeks. . . . Although there were no goals the crowd had their fair share of excitement."—*News of the World*.

"Luton were well on top for the first 45 minutes. . . . Luton's power-house wing-halves, Wally Shanks and Jim Pemberton, dominated the Pompey inside forwards."—*Sunday Pictorial*.

"A great game." — *Sunday Chronicle and Empire News*.

"Poor shooting by Luton's forwards in the first half robbed them of another big score."—*Reynolds News*.

"In the first half it was Luton who had all the thrust and it appeared as though they might build up another of their mammoth scores."—*Sunday Express*.

"Luton impressed as workman-like footballers without frills who carve out their own chances by running quickly into position. Luton, on the score of shots that deserved to go in but just didn't, were unlucky."—*The People*.

"In the first half Luton might have scored several goals, the result of their slick, precision movements. Luck, and the Pompey defence, held out."—*Portsmouth Football Mail*.

GOALS SHOULD HAVE BEEN PLENTIFUL

Town, Good In Approach, Could Not Find Finish

By Chiltern

PORTSMOUTH 0, LUTON TOWN 0

This was a match that could, and should, have produced quite a crop of goals, for the openings were there and there was a lot of shooting that just did not quite go right.

Add to that, goal-line clearances, some great saves by the International goalkeepers, Baynham and Uprichard, who were on opposing sides at Wembley recently, and there are some of the ingredients that led many Portsmouth officials to say afterwards that it was the best match they have had at Fratton Park this season.

A point from this ground was most satisfactory from the Town point of view, but the jubilation was rather watered down by the undisputable fact that they had had sufficient scoring opportunities to have made certain of both points.

These came in the first half when Portsmouth had little answer to the fast moving Town forwards whose impeccable approach work revealed gaping holes in the home defence but, as at Aston Villa, they could not round off all this brilliance with goals.

A measure of bad luck attended their efforts, it is true but there were sufficient chances of which full use should have been made for the Town to turn around three or four goals ahead.

WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FLATTERED

Nor would that have flattered them, for they made the Portsmouth defence look slow and leaden footed by the accurate way in which they found each other and the way in which they made use of the open spaces.

With only two minutes gone, the foundation of victory should have been laid by Turner who shot straight at Mansell, standing on the goal line, after Uprichard had been able to merely push out a cross-drive by Morton.

Then both Turner and Morton in turn, dribbled the ball past Uprichard, only for the ball to break away from them so that Turner could not prevent it going for a goal kick, and Morton became so angled that the best he could do was to hit the outside of the post.

These were but three examples

and there were others during this first half when the Town revealed sparkling form, using tactics of all-out attack with the wing-halves backing up the forwards in grand style.

SECOND HALF COME-BACK

By half-time, Portsmouth looked almost dejected, but, obviously, their manager had something to say to them during the interval, for they came back a different side altogether.

Whereas, previously, they had been waiting for the ball which made them look yards slower than the Town, they went in to meet it, were quicker in the tackle and, altogether, managed to bustle the Town forwards off their game.

The initiative passed to the home team and there was heavy work for the Town's defence, all of which added up to a different story altogether in the second half.

Portsmouth then had so much of the game that they might very easily have completed their recovery by snatching the other point, but spirited defensive work kept them out.

The forwards had a Jekyll and Hyde sort of day. Brilliant in the first half, they were thrown right out of their stride later and neither Turner nor Cummins could find his best form after the interval when there was some inaccurate distribution from each.

LACKED SUPPORT

Morton after leading the line with fire, suffered later from lack of support and Cullen and Adam, both forceful and clever in the earlier phase found their scope a lot more limited afterwards.

Steadying things when the tide turned against the Town the middle line came through with every credit, with Shanks having an outstanding game both in attack and defence.

Owen came through most capably, too, and Pemberton, who has been most consistent since he was recalled to the team, was effective, too.

After a comfortable first half, Dunne was worried by the speed and thrust of Henderson, Portsmouth's most dangerous raider and, taking the game through, Aherne was rather the more successful against another dangerous raider in Harris.

There could not be the slightest criticism of Baynham's display, for he was completely safe and confident in everything he did and one full-length save from Rees brought down the house.

PORTSMOUTH: Uprichard; McGhee, Mansell, Gunter, Reid, Dickinson; Harris, Pickett, Rees, Robertson, Henderson.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Adam.

Referee: C. W. Kingston, Newport. Attendance, 27,758.