

FOOTBALL NO FINISH

Setback Came Against 'Spurs

TOTTENHAM H. 2
LUTON TOWN 1

Christmas began a little early this year for the Town, who were engaged in a morning match on Saturday at White Hart-lane, a move that proved to be a profitable one from the attendance point of view, for 41,168, including many hundreds from Luton, saw the 'Spurs gain two precious points.

It could very well have been otherwise, for the Town had a lot of bad luck in the opening stages, when they played their best football and, for Turner in particular, the ball just would not run kindly in the goalmouth.

By the re-introduction of Duquemin, and the bringing in of newcomer Smith at inside-left, 'Spurs changed their tactical plan to suit the conditions, for the pitch was very heavy and suited the stronger, more busling home team.

There was little finesse about the 'Spurs. Instead, they relied on the long through pass and bustle down the middle in their attacks, but they had a bit of luck in the way in which both their first-half goals came.

First was after 16 minutes when, from the left wing, DUQUEMIN, with a shot that was probably meant for a centre, deceived Baynham and the ball went in off the inside of the far post, with Smith, following up, ending in the back of the net with it.

WONDER SAVES

Before that, Baynham had made a wonder save from a header by Smith, and Reynolds one equally as good from a great drive by Shanks.

Further blow to the Town came five minutes from half-time, when BROOKS intercepted some passing between Pemberton and Shanks to race through the middle and beat the full-length Baynham with a shot that he only half hit and the ball trickled in off the inside of the post.

So, it was in rather a dire situation that the Town reached the interval, but they fought back, played some good football and had the better of the second-half play.

However, on the mud heap, their short passing was not calculated to bring results and pass after pass was cut off by the formidable home defenders and especially Clarke, who dominated the middle of the field.

Not until 10 minutes from the end when TURNER beat Reynolds from close in after a pass by Shanks did the Town really promise to save a point and they were unlucky in the closing minutes when Norman could as easily have put through his own goal as deflected to comparative safety a hard cross by Morton.

LACKED SHOOTING POWER

On the run of the play, and by dint of sheer football skill, the Town could well have had a point in this gruelling match.

Main trouble was that they tended to make one pass too many, which was fatal against some strong tackling and successful packing of the penalty area, and there was a lack of shooting power.

So, much clever midfield work came to nought and all the hard work of the inside trio and some cleverness by Cullen and Adam just fizzled out when it came to finishing. Fact was that the forward line was just bogged down by the mud and that they did not adapt themselves to the conditions.

The defence was strong enough, with Owen and Shanks prominent and after their hard struggle and the way in which they threw back the home forwards, they did not deserve to be on the losing side.

In conceding the two goals, Baynham was probably more unlucky than blameworthy and handling of the greasy ball which continually collected a thick coating of mud, was a difficult business.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: Reynolds; Norman, Hopkins; Blanchflower; Clarke, Marchi; Dulin, Brooks, Duquemin, Smith, Robb.

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

Referee: E. W. Abbott, Manningtree.