

LOST A TWO GOALS LEAD

LUTON TOWN 2, CHELSEA 2

Best opportunity of the Town gaining a victory during the week-end occurred on Friday when they had built for themselves what looked to be an impregnable position against Chelsea at Kenilworth-road.

Midway through the second half they were sailing serenely along, holding a lead of two goals, and then came the incident that was the whole turning point and which encouraged Chelsea from an aimless, lifeless team that saw a hint of reprieve and fought to achieve it.

Many disagreed with the referee when he pointed to the penalty spot in the 69th minute after Bentley had fallen headlong following a tackle by Kelly.

Already, the ball had run out of play and, to say the least, it was a harsh decision. Responsibility of taking the kick went to SILLETT, one of the hardest kickers of a dead ball in the game today, but he did not rely on force with which to beat Baynham. Instead, he placed the ball carefully wide of Baynham's left hand.

Earlier, nearly all the method and constructive skill had come from the Town whose rebuilt forward line shaped well in the first half.

TOWN'S SKILFUL FOOTBALL

Whereas Chelsea relied mainly on big kicks down the middle, coupled with hard following up as a means of making progress, the Town played some skilful football that enabled them to take the lead after 36 minutes.

Cullen started the movement with a through pass to Adam who crossed it to GREGORY. Although it was a difficult ball to control, the young centre-forward did so without waste of time and then banged it firmly past Robertson.

Scarcely had the second half begun and, in fact, it was only a minute old, than the Town were two up with a peculiar sort of goal.

Baynham punted the ball right down the middle and DAVIES came through on the blind side of Wicks, who had decided to let it run through to Robertson, and scored with a well-placed low shot into the far corner of the net.

That put the Town in easy street until the penalty award and, after that, they were struggling. All their former confidence and precision deserted them and they faded right out.

Intelligent anticipation by DICKS paved the way for the equaliser 14 minutes from the end, for he ran into the open space down the middle when Bentley, unmarked, secured the ball from a throw-in on the left.

A rush of Town defenders failed to stop him and he got the ball in at the second attempt.

CHELSEA FINISHED STRONGLY

Chelsea finished the game the stronger and might have snatched the other point had play gone on for much longer, but as it was they gained more than they deserved.

After a fine start, Groves could not keep it up and fell away in the second half, as did Shanks, who perhaps was called upon to do too much covering.

A kick on the calf probably cut down the effectiveness of Morton, who was well below his best, but Kelly, who made some mistakes in dealing with the lively ball which were speedily rectified, dealt firmly enough with Bentley until the England player began to wander.

Until then, Bentley had failed to get himself much in the game, and with both Dunne and Jones keeping a firm hold on the wingers, there was not a great deal for the Town defence to worry about until those fatal last 20 minutes.

Some of his kicking apart, there could be no faulting Baynham, whose handling was always safe and who approached each separate situation with complete confidence.

Always with the proviso that real punch was missing, the first-half display of the forwards was something of a revelation. Cullen fitted well into the scheme of things, and Gregory looked dangerous when the ball came to him low. Making his final pass more accurately in this match, Adam was often a danger, but only his goal relieved for Davies an unhappy afternoon.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Kelly, Shanks; Davies, Cullen, Gregory, Groves, Adam.

CHELSEA: Robertson; Sillett, Willemse; Dicks, Wicks, Casey; Parsons, McNichol, Bentley, Stubbs, Blunstone.

Referee: F. B. Coultas, Hull.

Attendance: 24,261.