

Big Shock For Spectators

LUTON'S EPIDEMIC OF POOR PASSES

No Resemblance To The Free-scoring Side

By Chiltern

Luton Town - 0 Aston Villa - - 0

THAT 100 per cent home record of the Town was ended on the rain-soaked Kenilworth-road turf last night when a solid, hard-fighting Aston Villa team forced a goal-less draw.

They did so deservedly against a strangely lack-lustre Town whose forwards, apart from one isolated period in the first half were right out of touch.

Seldom has such an epidemic of misplaced passes, such as the Town were guilty of, been seen in one match.

Time and again the ball was sent to an opponent and the only occasions when they looked like blasting open this very capable, stalwart Villa defence was when the through pass was brought into operation.

Nor was there punch on the wings where Adam had a dreadful time, particularly in his finishing, and Cullen could make little of Aldis though the support for him was not of the best.

What was missing mainly from the Town attack was accuracy, and the distribution of the wing halves was also below par.

Outstanding Town player was Owen who firmly held Pace and there were several occasions when the Villa were threatening that the tall centre-half got his team out of trouble.

NOT MUCH WRONG

Defensively though there was not much wrong with the Town, and this match was marked by the scarcity of good shots.

It is difficult to remember one from the Town in the second half and the Villa might easily have snatched the odd goal in the dying stages.

None of the forwards lived up to his reputation and the line as a whole was a curiously shot-shy affair that bore no resemblance whatever to the formation that has been scoring so freely.

After the high-powered forward play we have been seeing from the Town this half-cock display must have come as a considerable shock to the 21,160 spectators.

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

ASTON VILLA: Sims; Hogg, Aldis; Baxter, Dugdale, Seward; Smith, Sewell, Pace, Dixon, McParland.

Referee: C W Kingston, Newport.

Although the Town looked the more dangerous in the early stages there seemed to be a general disinclination to shoot, and often they made that one pass too many.

For quite a quarter of an hour there was little in the way of excitement until Pace headed just over, but in any case was penalised for a foul on Owen.

Then a neat movement in which Cummins took part sent Morton through, and Sims saved his shot with some difficulty.

The turf, heavy after the rain and cutting up, was tricky, but even taking that into account it was a tame opening.

POST STRUCK

Nearest approach to a goal came when Cummins danced through the Villa defence from a pass by Morton and struck the outside of a post.

It should have been a goal and with the Town forwards finding their touch only a terrific save by Sims prevented Turner from putting the Town ahead.

Then the goalkeeper had to move quickly to prevent a shot by Adam creeping in near a post.

The Town had gained the upper hand and Pemberton had a drive deflected.

In a sudden Villa breakaway, Streten made a great one-handed save from McParland and for a few minutes the Town were thrown back on the defensive, with Owen putting in some outstanding work.

Villa were right back in the game and McParland shot against the outside of a post from an acute angle.

LINE MISFIRES

A series of misplaced passes was holding up the Town, but a typical Morton-Turner movement saw the latter racing through, but he was a foot wide with a low drive that had Sims beaten.

In quick succession first Morton then Cullen headed inches over, to the accompaniment of the whistle going for offside. For the most part this half the Town forward line had misfired.

Right on half-time the Villa were awarded a free kick for hands by Pemberton and the ball bobbed about dangerously in front of goal till Owen made another fine clearance. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 0

ASTON VILLA 0

The early part of the second half brought little improvement from the Town forwards, though the capable Sims cut out centres by Morton and Cullen.

Chance for the Villa occurred after Smith had dispossessed Aherne, and Dunne cleared in timely fashion.

Play had veered the Villa's way, but their shooting was poor and neither side looked much like scoring.

VILLA DANGEROUS

Villa were looking slightly the more dangerous, and Streten saved a header by Dixon.

Then the Town had a narrow escape when Sewell pushed through the ball for Pace and only the intervention of Owen's foot at the last split second saved the situation.

From the corner the Town had another remarkable escape when Smith headed firmly in and Dunne, from almost under the bar, turned the ball over with his head.

With passes continuing to go astray the Town forwards seldom wore anything approaching a fluent look and they were unable to break down a very solid defence.

Switching about by the forwards with Turner occasionally lurking out on the left wing in the hope of a snap chance failed to make much difference.

There was scarcely a worthwhile shot from either team for a long period.

As the game entered its final phase the Town suddenly struck and in a terrific scramble following a centre by Cullen, Turner and Cummins had close range shots beaten down.

BEST EFFORT

Best scoring effort this half came from Pace with a flying header that left Streten helpless but the ball flew just wide of the post.

If anybody was going to snatch a winner it looked much more likely to be Villa and Streten had some difficulty in pushing over a deceptive shot by Smith.

With only a minute remaining the Villa forced three corners and from the third McParland headed too high. Result:

LUTON TOWN 0

ASTON VILLA 0