

DREARY DISPLAY BY THE WEAKENED TOWN

Had Forward Failings, Made Defensive Errors

By Chiltern

CHELSEA 4, LUTON TOWN 1

IN a match that was almost as dreary as the grey November afternoon, the Town were snuffed out effectively by the strong, hard-fighting Chelsea team who were helped considerably by mistakes which brought them simple goals.

Without five players who would have been considered for places in the side had they been fit, the Town's display was a pale shadow of what they can produce when at their best and they were never really in the game with a winning chance.

Once again it was emphasised only too clearly just what a handicap is Turner's absence because, with the exception of Gregory and sometimes Morton, the front line showed no semblance of punch.

Playing in a rather unaccustomed berth, Gregory, with a limited service, suggested that outside-left might become his best position, for he showed more thrust than his colleagues, especially when he cut in for goal.

Little came from the inside men, for although Pearce worked hard, he was largely ineffective and missed the best chance of the match when he blazed over the bar from inside the six yards area.

Only occasionally did we see the quality footwork of which Cummins is capable, and it was something of a surprise that he should pop up in the Chelsea penalty area in the gathering darkness and pave the way to the Town's only goal.

That came three minutes from the end when GREGORY tapped

the ball through after Matthews had failed to hold the inside-left's drive.

NO ARGUMENT

Other than that, the Town had rarely looked like improving their position, which by then was that they were trailing four goals behind.

The first, after 17 minutes, was rather a fortunate affair because NICHOLAS headed against a post and although Streten scrambled the ball away, the referee decided that it had crossed the line and there was no argument by the Town.

Twelve minutes later Streten went down to a low centre by Tindall and the ball went under his body conveniently for McNICHOL to apply the finishing touch.

There matters remained until 18 minutes from the end, though there were several narrow escapes at the Town end. Then, Jones elected to backheel the ball to Streten without taking the precaution of making certain that the coast was clear.

It was not, because Tindall was in between Jones and Streten and smartly slipped the ball back to Brabrook. His shot was kicked off the line by Owen, but he regained possession, and from his centre NICHOLAS secured number three.

WAS UNPREPARED

Another elementary error brought a further reverse when Streten took a free-kick for offside and passed to Dunne, who was totally unprepared for it. As a result the ball bounced to TINDALL, who rammed it into the net.

There was little support for Morton, who did his best to mould the attack into an effective line, but with not a great deal of success. Cullen was much overshadowed by Sillett throughout the match.

Outstanding member of the defence was Owen, who found that he had a deal of covering to do, and a lot of trouble was caused by Jones giving Brabrook far too much room.

Strong tackling by Smith in the second half relieved what had until then been a moderate display from him, and Pemberton's use of the ball was better than his defensive work.

Dunne kept a close watch on Blunstone to qualify for being next in line to Owen for credit marks, but Streten blotted his copybook when two of the goals were scored. Yet he made several good saves, too, but never seemed completely happy.

CHELSEA: Matthews; McFarlane, Sillett; Armstrong, Livingstone, Saunders; Brabrook, McNichol, Tindall, Nicholas, Blunstone.

LUTON TN: Streten; Dunne, Jones; Pemberton, Owen, Smith; Cullen, Pearce, Morton, Cummins, Gregory.

Referee: B A E Buckle, Peterborough. Attendance: 30,823

Other Critics Were:

LAI D BARE FAULTS OF THE TOWN

All eyes were on Reg. Matthews, Chelsea's new £20,000 signing from Coventry when the Town met "The Pensioners" at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

And it was just as well that they were for the critics found enough fault with Luton even if they were concentrating on the form of the most expensive goalkeeper in the world.

One or two writers of national newspapers complimented Luton on their approach work, but once again, they were all highly critical of Luton's lack of finish.

Here are some "quotes":

"It is not easy to say precisely why Luton at times made such an abject showing. Admittedly, the ball was not rolling for them. But most of their mistakes were elementary. From the beginning, the fierceness of Chelsea seemed to take all the fight out of them." *Sunday Times*.

"Chelsea were full value for their win. Their powerful defence dealt efficiently with the few weak Luton raids." *The People*.

"Chelsea were really not much better than Luton. But they did shoot — and it got goals." *Sunday Dispatch*.

"Luton looked good in mid-field, but at close quarters the attack faded out. Not until the second half could a very mediocre Luton attack produce a shot to give Matthews any trouble." *News of the World*.

"This was a triumph of punch over polish. Luton moved more smoothly but lacked the shots, speed and purpose to embarrass this Chelsea defence." *Sunday Express*.

"Smiles all round by Chelsea. They ran Luton ragged." *Sunday Pictorial*.

"Although Chelsea registered their first home victory since September 15th, this was a game in which scarcely anyone did anything purposeful by design." *Sunday Empire News and Chronicle*.