

EXIT TOWN FROM THE CUP AFTER TWO VERY STORMY EPISODES

By Chiltern

IN two stormy, somewhat abrupt episodes, the Town's hopes of a lengthy run in the Cup this season disappeared in the replay at Villa Park on Monday, when, although the defence fought courageously with the dice loaded against them, the team as a whole could not match the strength and determination of the Villa.

Yet on Saturday, at Kenilworth-road, the Town had been within eight minutes of landing themselves in the fourth round which would have meant a visit for them to either Middlesbrough or Charlton.

Although the going at Villa Park was very heavy, the pitch, compared with the mudbath that the teams faced in the first match, was near perfect, but the Town forwards did not show their appreciation of the change of conditions as had been expected.



No wonder Bernard Stretten, Seamus Dunne and Brendan McNally are looking dejected. Aston Villa have just scored their second goal in the F.A. Cup replay at Villa Park on Monday. Villa, of course, won 2-0 after another tough battle.

HELD OUT FOR 60 MINUTES

**ASTON VILLA 2,
LUTON TOWN 0**

There could be no complaint about the correctness of this result of a disappointing game that did not produce a deal of football that was worthy of two First Division teams.

Mystery really was how the Villa failed to cash in on the superiority they achieved before the 60th minute, for the Town had spent a great deal of the first half penned in their own half, and yet there were few occasions when the Villa really looked like scoring.

Largely, this followed the same pattern as the first match, with heavy, tough tackling, and the Villa defenders making it widely known in the opening minutes that there would be no quarter so far as they were concerned.

Again, they were ruthless in their methods, a fact that produced retaliation to the extent that two or three penalty claims against the Town were turned down, to the chagrin of the home supporters who suffered as had those of Luton on Saturday.

TOO MUCH LATITUDE

As was the case on Saturday, the referee allowed a deal too much latitude, gave a series of free-kicks, but did not cut out the rough stuff.

Maybe, it was the Town's misfortune to be paired with a side like the Villa in their first appearance in the Cup, because they do not usually prosper against tactics of this sort.

But, in this competition, as in the League, the rough has to be taken with the smooth, and the Villa, with their tough, hard defence and a certain amount of liveliness in attack, might well make a deal of progress.

Great disappointment was the display of the Town forwards, of whom only McLeod managed to be a perpetual source of worry. Time and again, he drew Dugdale out of the middle, but no-one took up the open space, and neither Turner nor Morton gave anything like the display of which he is capable.

Shots from the Town were few and far between and it is difficult to remember any worthwhile efforts apart from one from Turner in the first half from the edge of the penalty area that was deflected just wide, another from Turner from a remarkable angle near the end, and a lob by Shanks that nearly caught Sims unprepared.

Nor did the Town have the directness on the extreme wings that the Villa possessed. Cullen began as if he might be a considerable nuisance with his wandering, but he fell into his old fault of holding up the rest of the line, and Davies made very little of the rugged Lynn. With the Villa defence break-

ing up Town raids before they had reached anything approaching maturity, it followed that there was a deal of service for the forwards, who, however, did not impress with their marksmanship.

DIXON'S HEAD AGAIN

Until an hour had gone, when Kelly and McNally went for the ball together and Pace gained possession to centre for DIXON, racing up at top speed, to head the ball through like a rocket, the defence had weathered the storm.

Although the Town had rather more of the play than they had enjoyed in the first half, one goal always seemed a winning lead, and hopes that had never been very high almost from the start disappeared completely when DIXON blasted the ball through from close in after Stretten had made a point-blank save from Smith and then lost sight of the ball which Sewell crossed to his inside colleague.

Throughout the piece the defence fought like trojans, with Kelly having as good a game as he has had in the senior side. Throughout, he had a grip on the dashing, fearless Pace, and it was a most competent performance by him.

For Pearce and Shanks this was a most difficult match with the ball coming back at them continually, but they came through splendidly, and Dunne cut down the McParland menace to almost negligible proportions.

Though McNally did not manage to curb completely Smith, who took knock after knock and then came back for more, he was again impressive, and Stretten far more busy than Sims, made several excellent saves.

ASTON VILLA: Sims; Lynn, Aldis; Crowther, Dugdale, Seward; Smith, Sewell, Pace, Dixon, McParland.

LUTON TOWN: Stretten; Dunne, McNally; Pearce, Kelly, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, McLeod, Morton, Davies.

Referee: A. Jobling, Morecambe.

Attendance: 28,356.