

NO DRIVE OR POWER IN TOWN'S ATTACK

Their Football Was More Decorative Than Effective

By Chiltern

SUNDERLAND 3, LUTON TOWN 0

THEIR performances in the last four matches have very nearly entitled the Town forwards to honorary membership of the "Goalkeepers' Union."

After his very comfortable afternoon's work at Roker Park on Saturday, Willie Fraser would no doubt add his support, because he was never in imminent danger of having to suffer the indignity of picking the ball out of the back of the net.

Certainly, he should have been provided with more employment, especially in the first half, when with the wind behind them, the Town played nearly all the constructive football and were in the Sunderland half for long spells.

However, it was all a good deal more decorative than effective, with the forwards apparently never having heard about the way of achieving the shortest distance between two points.

Unnecessary short passing and a disposition to play their football across field instead of making use of the through pass which has paid them so handsomely against this opposition on previous occasions, meant that they seldom looked as if they would get among the goals.

Everything seemed to break down at the edge of the penalty area and most of the few shots produced went sailing harmlessly wide.

GOAL IN FIRST REAL RAID

Maybe, they did not recover fully from the shock of going in arrears in the first raid of any merit made by Sunderland. That was after 12 minutes when Bingham pushed a speculative pass down the middle and FLEMING cleverly made Owen go the wrong way.

This left him with a shot at goal from just outside the penalty area and the ball beat Baynham's left hand.

More pretty midfield work enabled the Town to have more of the play once again after this, but they could not find the power or drive to round off their movements.

Two minutes from the interval, shortly after the Town had had claims for a penalty for a foul on Adam disallowed, came another shock.

Darting forward quickly, O'Neill was pulled down from behind by Groves and from the penalty spot FLEMING increased the lead.

Hopes that the Town could stage a fighting recovery in the second half were soon blunted because it was Sunderland who began the more strongly and, after increasing their lead through O'NEILL in the 61st minute, their command of the situation became more and more marked.

FORWARD FADE OUT

There was an almost complete fade-out by the Town forwards, who failed to vary their style, and with extra work thrown on to the defence, there could very well have been further reverses.

Just what has happened to the

direct style of play which has paid the Town best in the past, is difficult to discover. Both Turner and Brown are in a bad patch, and Morton is not showing the form of the first match or two after his switch into the middle.

There seems a lack of confidence, with little use being made of the open space and the shooting being very much below standard.

Best of the front line was Adam, recalled to outside-right, where he showed a considerable amount of promise that he can be a success. There was early promise from McLeod, too, which did not amount to a lot in terms of finishing, but he received less and less of the ball as the game wore on.

OWEN WAS STRONG

Despite the fact that two goals were scored against them, the Town defence had a very good first half and, their goals apart, Sunderland's forward line was not an impressive force.

Having attained the highly comfortable position of being three goals ahead, the Sunderland attack found new confidence and they made a deal of use of the speed of Bingham, who had been subdued by Jones previously.

Strong man of the Town defence was Owen and it was not until the latter part of the second half that either Groves or Pearce were in real trouble. The wing-half play was competent enough and it is the forwards who must accept most responsibility for the defeat.

Even though Dunne was not in his best form, not a lot came from Grainger and Baynham could be faulted only in that there was some suspicion that he might have prevented the first goal.

SUNDERLAND: Fraser; Hedley, McDonald; Anderson, Aitken, Elliott; Bingham, Revie, Fleming, O'Neill, Grainger.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Jones; Groves, Owen, Pearce; Adam, Turner, Morton, Brown, McLeod.

Referee: F. Cowen, Manchester. Attendance: 36,734.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton were streamlined. Their interpassing and positioning was good to watch—until they got within sight of Sunderland's goal."
—"Sunday Express."

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"Poor Luton. They spent most of the first half running round in circles and 80 per cent of the second half defending. Luton have nothing to crow about. Their forwards were snail slow."
—"Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

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"Luton tried to play football but never looked capable of scoring. Luton's trouble was that they did not have a scorer among their forwards."
—"The People."

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"There were not more than a couple of shots against Fraser."
—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"Luton . . . were a very disappointing side. Luton had only themselves to blame for defeat."
—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"Luton were lucky to escape so lightly. They did not make the best use of their opportunities."
—"News of the World."

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"The Luton attack fired on only one cylinder—winger Adam . . . A game best forgotten by Luton."
—"Sunday Graphic."

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"Luton could not weather the storm at Roker Park. Sunderland well deserved their win."
—"Sunderland Echo."