

TOWN TOOK THE HARD WAY TO VICTORY

Luton Tn - - - 3 Aston Villa - - - 0

WHEN a team becomes so much on top as the Town were against Aston Villa at Kenilworth-road this afternoon there are two ways of achieving victory.

First and easiest is to mark that superiority with goals early on. But the Town took the second, and harder, way—not from choice, of course, but because for a long time the forward line did not click smoothly.

In point of fact, it took them 55 minutes to get their noses in front, whereas they could well have been three up at half-time, had they shown punch at close quarters and not attempted to keep the ball too close and almost to try to walk it into the net.

Maybe the condition of the pitch had something to do with their tardiness, because the ball played tricks in the mud, but for all that there was a sluggish look about the Town forwards, right up to the interval.

It was Brown, the best member of their front line, who showed the way by making the first goal ten minutes after half-time, and there followed two absolute gifts from the gods, eagerly snapped up by Turner and McLeod, to make the Town comfortable and decisive winners.

There was considerable surprise among the Villa defenders when the second goal was allowed to stand, because Turner looked to be offside, but afterwards he said the ball was played on to him by a Villa player.

From the Villa, much below strength, this was a poor display, and their forwards, led by £22,000 Hitchens, were scarcely in it.

It could have been a different story had Hitchens accepted the one clear-cut chance he was allowed by Owen shortly after the interval, but he missed badly.

Other than that he was completely held by the centre-half, and Morton and Pearce completed a great middle line.

Pearce was perhaps the outstanding player this rather disappointing game produced. He was always in it—whether in defence or right up to attack.

After their sluggishness in the first half the forwards showed more thrust and directness afterwards, but they were below their best, with Turner finding little going right for him, and it was Brown who earned the main laurels.

There was plenty of hard work from Groves, who continually tried to produce the through pass, not always successfully, and of the wingers, Adam was the more effective.

McLeod had a poor day. So there it was, two points safely in the bag as a further confidence restorer after that Stockport shock.

Attendance: 16,602.